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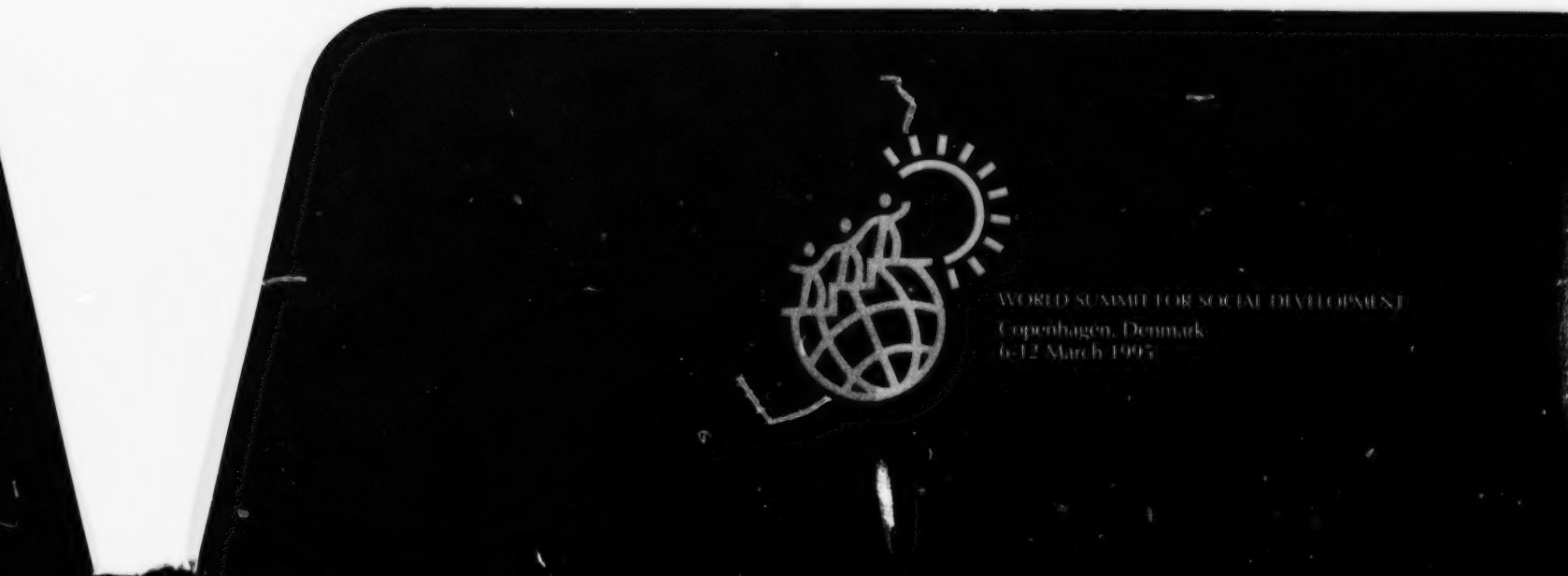
WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Copenhagen, Denmark
6-12 March 1995

Why a Social Summit?

WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen
Denmark
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Attacking Poverty

Building Solidarity

Creating Jobs

To Attack Poverty

More than a billion people live in poverty—without jobs, without basic necessities, without hope. Most are in rural areas of Asia and Africa—although millions more can be found in the cities of the industrialized countries as well as the developing world. How can this condition, which afflicts women in disproportionate ways, be alleviated? How can the poor become productive members of society?

To Build Solidarity

Social inequalities and polarization are deepening. Can intolerance and racism be ended? How can regions torn by ethnic and national differences bring their people together? A theory and practice of social integration is needed, drawn from lessons learned around the world.

To Create Jobs

Jobs have become so scarce in most regions of the world that high unemployment may be turning into a permanent feature of the modern economy, swelling the ranks of the poor and undermining social stability. How can nations create new jobs—and ensure that they are not only plentiful, but productive and satisfying for all?

National leaders and delegations intend to grapple with these questions—and draw up a plan of action to address them—when they meet in March 1995 at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"This will be the first time in the history of the United Nations, or the League of Nations, in which heads of State and Government will meet in order to deal with social development as a priority issue of the international agenda", said the chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit, Ambassador Juan O. Somavia of Chile.

From the perspective of the United Nations, which is organizing the Summit, the three interrelated problems of poverty, unemployment and social integration share something besides universal concern: the possibility that they can be solved over time through collective international efforts.

"We need an international conference, a summit, so that leaders of the world, public and private institutions and all citizens of goodwill can agree to mobilize their energy and intelligence for the achievement of common goals and the solution to pressing problems", said United Nations Under-Secretary-General Nitin Desai, whose Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development is the home base of the Summit secretariat.

Putting People First

In many ways, Mr. Desai and others say, the Copenhagen meeting represents an opportunity to build on the accomplishments of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development—the so-called Earth Summit. At that Conference, in Rio de Janeiro, more than 150 nations agreed that "human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development".

Earth Summit leaders also concluded that preserving the planet for future generations will require nothing less than the eradication of poverty; appropriate population policies; the elimination of wasteful patterns of consumption; a supportive and open international economic system; and the participation of all concerned citizens—especially women, the young, indigenous peoples and local communities.

The ultimate goal of the Social Summit, Ambassador Somavia declared, is to help make "ordinary people throughout the world feel less insecure, less threatened and more dignified".

"The dignity of the human being is a great endeavour", he said. "It is an ideal well worth fighting for; a fundamental value to orient our life; a moral need for contemporary societies."

Coming in the 50th anniversary year of the United Nations, the 1995 Social Summit will

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occupy a central position in a constellation of other United Nations–organized gatherings on global development issues. These include the 1990 World Summit for Children, the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, the 1994 International Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the upcoming 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, and the 1996 UN Conference on Human Settlements.

The world faces a 'social and moral crisis ... of immense proportions'

— Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

The World Situation

The world has witnessed unprecedented material progress in the last half of the twentieth century. But the benefits of this progress have not been distributed equally. The gulf between the haves and the have-nots has widened dramatically in recent years—between rich and poor nations, and between rich and poor citizens.

The persistence of poverty, exacerbated by increases in world-wide unemployment rates, has raised doubts about the likelihood of continued material progress into the twenty-first century. Combined with the environmental repercussions of unchecked population growth and reckless economic development, a grim picture has taken shape.

"Together with spectacular advances in science and technology in such fields as biology and genetics, the wounds blindly inflicted upon the environment by present systems of production and consumption are causing humankind today to have doubts about its future", said the United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali. "This atmosphere of general uncertainty is compounded by a social and moral crisis which, in many societies, is of immense proportions."

Even in the most prosperous nations, the dimensions of this crisis are unmistakable: in developed countries where 1 of every 10 people of working age cannot find a job that pays a living wage, and where the young no longer see the usefulness of education; when tried-and-true social values become suddenly obsolete, and when solidarity between individuals and groups is eroded, replaced by individual or political egoism.

In virtually every region of the world, there is rising insecurity brought on by the effects of crime, substance abuse and drug trafficking.

The Post–Cold War Reality

Although it once seemed a harbinger of peace, the end of the cold war has had a destabilizing effect. Cut adrift from the moorings of bipolar super-Power rivalry, many nations have become caught up in ethnic violence and civil warfare. People seeking better lives in new lands have fallen victim to xenophobically inspired terror.

Developing countries have lost the influence they once wielded as objects of cold war competition — and their leaders contend that they are inadequately represented in decisions on international trade and finance.

Meanwhile, international financial institutions—and a new world trade organization—have assumed larger roles in global affairs. But they have failed to halt economic deterioration in crisis-torn countries, much less distribute equitably the social and financial costs of restoring national economies to health.

"It is evident that with the end of the cold war, a new organizing concept is needed to replace the old order of the struggle against communism on one side and imperialism on the other", Ambassador Somavia said. "Shouldn't the improvement in conditions of life of people and the planet become the new organizing factor of international life?"

The Trend Towards Globalization

Globalization — the growing linkage of economic and political policies, trends, even modes of behaviour and consumer habits — is transforming the evolution of modern society.

The interdependence of economic and financial decisions, often via multinational corporations, has helped fuel a rapid expansion of

Development must now be seen as part of the task of building a more secure and peaceful world for everyone.

markets. But the benefits are not being apportioned equally, as in the case of developing countries that have not been able to share in globalized foreign investments. New forms of international cooperation must be devised that will make it possible for all to share in the positive aspects of economic globalization.

But the negative aspects of cultural and ethical globalization must also be dealt with. The eagerness of individuals and societies to embrace newly transnational tastes and aspirations—often no more profound than style of dress, food or choice of television programmes —shows how late twentieth century societies can grow by opening their doors to all creations of human intelligence.

But openness can also lead to homogenization, to the loss of traditional values and unique lifestyles—of individuality itself. The loss of intergenerational solidarity, and the bonds that unite communities, can create moral and cultural vacuums—and these vacuums become fertile ground for alienation and delinquent behaviour.

The enhancement of social integration will involve finding ways to reconcile openness and cultural change with pluralism and respect for tradition.

Development as a Common Thread

The Summit's core issues of poverty, unemployment and social integration have been identified by the General Assembly as severe problems of modern society, whose solution is crucially important to sustainable human development. And development is central to the goals of the United Nations.

"Increased international cooperation for economic and social development would significantly contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security", the General Assembly declared in December 1992, in a resolution authorizing the Social Summit.

In another time and context, development —whether social, economic, cultural or sustainable — would have been simply termed human progress or human evolution, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali said. As it is, they are all different facets of a single aim and a single process.

"We must integrate the previously separate concepts of peace and security on the one hand, and social and economic development on the other", the Secretary-General said. "Development must now be seen as part of the task of building a more secure and peaceful world for everyone."

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The Job Crisis

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The question of how to reduce unemployment — while simultaneously creating productive, fulfilling jobs — is one of three core issues to be addressed by heads of State or Government when they gather at the World Summit for Social Development, 6-12 March 1995 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

This backgrounder offers an overview of productive employment as a factor in human development. It draws on a report (document A/CONF.166/PC/6) of the United Nations Secretary-General to the first meeting of the Summit Preparatory Committee, held 31 January-11 February 1994 in New York, as well as the report of an Expert Group Meeting hosted by the Government of Sweden from 4-8 October 1993.

Attacking Poverty

Building Solidarity

Creating Jobs

A World in Crisis

"The world is suffering from a social and moral crisis", the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, declared in his report to the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development.

Symptomatic of this crisis, this "malaise of the modern world", as Mr. Boutros-Ghali put it, is the growing atmosphere of uncertainty which, he noted, affects virtually all areas of life.

In the realm of work, for example, such a state of crisis may be said to exist "when one out of every 10 people of working age cannot find work paying a decent wage and when the young no longer see the value of the education they are receiving" in terms of jobs and income.

The persistent increase in unemployment and low-productivity employment constitutes a major threat to social development the world over. It is a primary cause of poverty.

The lack of productive and fulfilling work also contributes to social disintegration, conflict and migration.

Social Darwinism?

It was once assumed that the globalization of economies and cultures would benefit all peoples. However, although real material progress has been achieved during the second half of the twentieth century in terms of annual per capita growth, increased life expectancy and other economic and social indicators, the benefits of this progress remain unequally distributed.

Spectacular achievements in some industrialized countries stand side by side with increasing poverty and inequality in less developed regions. Instead of equalization, there is polarization as the rich get richer while the poor get poorer. The Secretary-General describes this phenomenon as a kind of "social Darwinism" in which only the "fittest" survive.

Of the world labour force of 2.8 billion people, an estimated 30 per cent — most of them in developing countries — are not productively employed. Of these, more than 120 million want to work, but cannot find jobs.

A far larger number — 700 million — are classified as underemployed: working long hours, but not earning enough to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. These people constitute the majority of the estimated 1.1 billion absolute poor.

In the last decade, the employment situation in most regions of the world — apart from the growth areas of East Asia and parts of South-East Asia — has worsened, both in terms of the number and quality of jobs.

Many developing countries — especially in Africa and parts of Asia and Latin America — are suffering the effects of a virtual standstill in new jobs, combined with vast declines in real wages in the formal job sector. Unemployment levels are on the rise in the industrialized countries, as well as in Eastern Europe and the coun-

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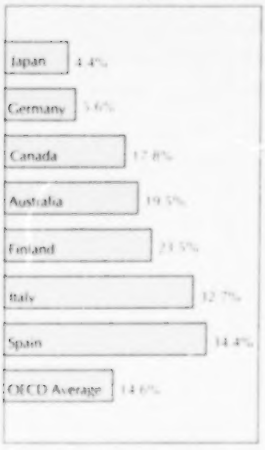
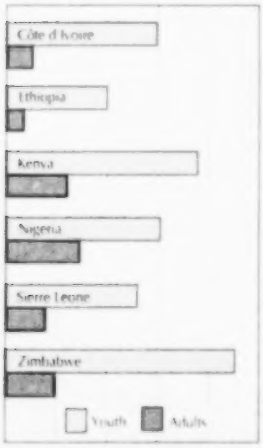
Youth Unemployment in Selected Industrialized Countries



Source: *Human Development Report, 1994*. UNDP, p.195.

Youth and Adult Unemployment Rates in Selected African Countries



Source: *World Labour Report 93*, ILO, p. 28.

tries of the former Soviet Union. At the same time, many workers, in both industrialized and developing countries, have been forced into precarious, low-security jobs.

In such socially primitive conditions, vulnerable groups suffer. For example, youth unemployment rates are often higher than the national average: in Latin America, they exceed 20 per cent, while some industrialized countries report over 30 per cent youth unemployment (Italy's was recently put at 33 per cent, Spain's at 34 per cent).

Women are doubly vulnerable. Not only do they bear a disproportionate share of the unemployment burden, but even when they find work, they earn a global average of 30-40 per cent less than their male counterparts. For many others as well — the disabled, older, migrant, indigenous and tribal workers and the long-term unemployed — there are simply no jobs to be had.

Jobless Growth

There was once a time when job supply outstripped demand; when almost any college graduate in an industrialized country could pick and choose a plum position from a number of offers; when unemployment was minimal and real wages grew commensurate with the economy.

Today workers are confronted with a vanishing job market. Even the world's foremost economies are suffering the ill effects of so-called jobless growth — although there are some isolated areas of success in the developing world (India, Pakistan and China, for example).

Africa's plight, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, is especially dire. There, average unemployment stands at 20 per cent, while wages have fallen steadily in the last decade. Sixty per cent of Africa's rural population — 300 million people — live in absolute poverty, a 50 per cent increase between 1988 and 1990, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other sources.

Viewed from a gender perspective, as unemployment rises like a flood tide, women all too frequently become the "shock absorbers", marginalized in employment policies that often put profits before people.

Clear proof of the widespread alarm caused by rising unemployment is provided by the fact that, for the first time, the Group of 7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States) devoted their March 1994 Summit in March 1994 in Detroit, Michigan, to jobs—and included labour ministers, as well as finance ministers, in talks among the heads of State or Government.

At this so-called "Jobs Summit", statistics were cited indicating that the global unemployment crisis is particularly critical in countries of the European Union, where 1993 output fell by 3.5 per cent as a result of unemployment, underperformance and lack of competitive incentive.

Statistical data covering more than two decades reveal that, while the United States has created 41 million new jobs since 1970, Europe has produced only 8 million.

The signs of distress are everywhere, amid recession and accumulated debt. In Spain, the boom times of the 1980's gave way to an unemployment rate that recently reached 24.5 per cent, the highest in Europe. In the United Kingdom, the proportion of the population with incomes less than half the national average doubled between 1961 and 1991, to 11 million people — or 20 per cent of the populace. In Finland, unemployment reached as much as 20 per cent in the early 1990s, compared with levels of about 3 per cent in the years soon after World War II.

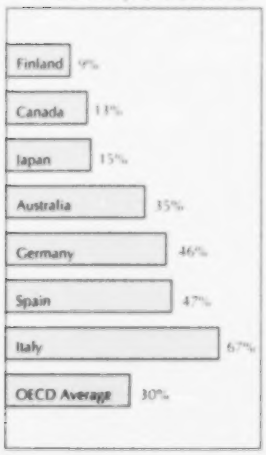
There are many theories for the European situation. According to the *Europa Times*, this jobless crisis in Europe may be largely "self-inflicted" — a result of "artificially high wages, lavish fringe benefits and prohibitive payroll taxes" that have devastated the job market.

But Europe is not the only victim. Countries around the world are facing crises of unprecedented proportions: from Afghanistan to Haiti, Myanmar to Mozambique, Zaire to the Sudan, and Iraq to Angola (the aforementioned countries are the topic of special studies in the

Falling Incomes Threaten Human Security

Source: Human Development Report 1994, UNDP, p.26.

Long-term Unemployment (More than 12 months)



Source: Human Development Report, 1994, UNDP, p.195.

Human Development Report 1994, commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme.)

The reasons behind the phenomenon of jobless growth are multiple. To name just two of the most obvious:

- Too many people, resulting from a global population explosion that will create a demand for one billion new jobs within the next 10 years;
- Too few labour-intensive jobs, making technologically sophisticated societies victims of their own success.

Insecurity and Exclusion

The results are reflected in a pervasive sense of insecurity, exclusion and social disintegration that poses serious problems in contemporary societies. Not only is insecurity — in the traditional military and territorial context — increasing both within and across borders but today there is also a new, more subtle variety that has its roots in economic factors.

For example, the chronically unemployed, the youths who are unable to find work and the migrants — fearful of expulsion, whose rights are exploited — live in a continuous state of anxiety over the uncertainty of their futures. Such conditions are hardly conducive to the kind of social harmony and productive well-being that are vital to social development.

Joblessness and Crime

The combination of economic crisis and ever-increasing unemployment has contributed to a marked rise in crime, which, as people run out of lawful options, is increasingly being perceived as the only way to survive.

Burgeoning cities, teeming with unemployed economic migrants, are especially fertile breeding grounds for crime. The problem is compounded by economic upheaval, crumbling infrastructures, unplanned urbanization, and rapid social change.

Recession-battered Europe, with its newly opened frontiers, is especially vulnerable to both joblessness and crime. Money laundering, drug trafficking and gun trading threaten such cosmopolitan capitals as London, Berlin and Brussels, and Europol has predicted that the rising crime wave will not be stemmed without an improvement in Europe's economic climate.

Global Nervous Breakdown?

While some symptoms, such as crimes, are external, others are internal, invisible, lodged in the psyches of individuals who can no longer rely on their jobs to define their worth or their place in society. As the contagion of jobless growth spreads, it brings with it a sense of isolation, social exclusion and uncertainty.

All these symptoms of dysfunctional societies are interactive and have produced, in the words of a non-governmental organization delegate to the first meeting of the Summit Preparatory Committee in 1994, a world experiencing a "global nervous breakdown".

Against this backdrop of mounting tensions, there is no question of the need for Governments to address the issue of employment at the Social Summit. The cost of political inaction, many experts believe, is likely to be exceedingly high.

The Right to Work

> *"Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment."*
>
> *— Article 23*
> *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights dates back to 1948. Yet some of its concepts remain revolutionary even today. Although most people in civilized society readily embrace the "right to life, liberty and security of person" (Article 3) as self-evident, the "right to work" may appear almost a contradiction in terms. The word "work" frequently conjures up an image of drudgery, deprivation, even servitude. How, then, should it be construed as a right?

Work transforms itself into a right and privilege the moment it is linked to rewards that are life-sustaining and enhancing; to conditions that ensure, in the words of the Declaration, "an existence worthy of human dignity..."; to "a standard of living adequate for health and well-

being..., including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services...".

Social Summit Goals

Transforming noble rhetoric into nuts-and-bolts reality is the primary objective of the Social Summit, whose three core issues are:

- Reduction and elimination of widespread poverty;
- Productive employment and the reduction of unemployment; and
- Social integration.

As Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali noted, all three issues are closely interwoven within a tapestry of values, especially social justice and democracy, the common thread being "their crucial importance for the development of individuals and societies".

"Social development cannot be pursued in a society that is stagnant or prone to high inflation."

— Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

We are beginning to realize that territorial security does not guarantee human security. Nor are GNP and economic growth sufficient. Nor is environmental sustainability an end in itself.

Rather, people — all citizens of all countries — need to be placed at the centre of development strategies, with their welfare paramount over more narrowly focused economic objectives.

This commitment at the local, national, regional and international levels embraces even the outermost periphery — the socially marginalized and disadvantaged groups in the least developed countries who are perhaps most of all in need of legal protection, effective social welfare, education, training and meaningful livelihoods.

General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992, which mandated the convening of a World Summit for Social Development, identifies eleven major objectives aimed at fulfilling Article 55 of the Charter, which calls for the promotion of "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development."

"Creating the Charter" is what the Social Summit is all about: that is, creating real-life conditions for sustainable human development and following through on commitments to bring it about. There is a prerequisite to the attainment of this goal, however: a nurturing economic environment.

An Enabling Environment

"Social development cannot be pursued in a society that is stagnant or prone to high inflation and instability", according to the Secretary-General's report. "With the growing interdependence between countries, the international economic environment must be such as to promote employment and poverty reduction."

Rather than viewing the jobless purely from the welfare standpoint, there is a need for economic policies that can generate gainful employment. Donor countries and financial institutions must re-examine the social costs of structural adjustment and find ways to support longer-term, labour-intensive projects.

As countries become ever more economically interdependent, the expansion of productive employment must be designed in a new context of globalization, with domestic efforts directed at promoting greater market access for labour-intensive products.

Productive Employment

While there is no set recipe for creating a culture in which "dynamism, tolerance and compassion co-exist in harmony", it is clear that "full and productive employment is the most effective method to combat poverty".

This was one of the conclusions reached by experts from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, France, Nigeria, Poland and Peru, who met with representatives from the International Labour Organisation and the World Bank in Saltsjobaden, Sweden, from 4 to 8 October 1993 to examine the issue of employment in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development.

These experts concluded that societies have both the knowledge and the means to overcome the unemployment crisis, using "a cooperative strategy based on national responsibility, buttressed by international solidarity".

"This could best be achieved", they said in their report, "in an international environment of free flow of private investment, free trade, reversal on the part of industrial countries of the

recent trend toward protection directed against developing countries, and a new regime of international aid where the developing countries contribute according to their ability, and aid is distributed on the criteria of need and effective use."

But all of this, the experts warned, will require "a degree of international cooperation which has been rare in recent history".

The Secretary-General's report targets three fundamental policy concerns for national and international action:

- Enabling higher rates of economic growth;
- Ensuring that growth creates jobs; and
- Achieving balance between the quantity and quality of jobs.

Both the Expert Group Meeting on the Expansion of Productive Employment and the Secretary-General's report suggest certain approaches, including the following:

- **Creating Opportunities:** There is consensus that tomorrow's employment opportunities will be generated primarily by small to medium-sized individual, private and cooperative enterprises that should enjoy opportunities and incentives in an atmosphere of governmental support so that that they may grow freely in a competitive market.

- **Encouraging Investments:** Businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, must be encouraged by simplifying regulations and procedures and by facilitating access to credit, markets, training, etc. There must also be increased support for micro-enterprises in the heretofore largely ignored informal sector — the sole source of sustenance for an estimated 300 million people worldwide.

- **Enabling Growth:** Concrete governmental contributions to enable growth should include an appropriate legal framework, a sound fiscal policy, a clear investment code and supportive investment environment, nondiscriminatory labour legislation and the necessary infrastructure. Such supportive environments are particularly needed in developing countries, where the vast majority of workers find themselves in precarious, marginally productive jobs.

- **Ensuring that Growth Creates Jobs:** Employment is the result of an intricate interaction between supply and demand that is increasingly interlinked across political borders. Although there is no miracle cure for jobless growth, government taxation and spending can, under certain circumstances, promote job creation and stimulate growth in employment.

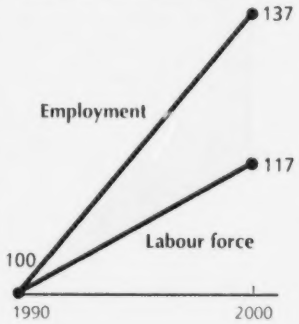
- **Adapting Outward:** There should be an export-oriented industrialization strategy to catalyze job growth in newly industrializing countries. The experience of East Asia confirms the value of substantial investment in an educated work force, export diversification and continual adaptation to the changing global marketplace. Governments have frequently made active contributions to the economic transformations of such countries.

- **Supporting the Service Sector:** Just as labour moved from agriculture to industry, the hallmark of post-industrial societies has been the emergence of a dynamic service sector. Although technological changes may have a labour-displacing and/or wage-lowering effect, other factors support the growth of service sector jobs: a) generation of additional jobs through environmental protection measures, health care and personal services for the aging and expansion of the travel and leisure market; b) rising productivity/remuneration in many service sector jobs; and c) rehiring/new jobs spurred by the end of the recession.

- **Improving Labour Markets:** Well-being for workers means both employment and income security. On the job side, active labour-market policies should include self-employment and small-enterprise support programmes; public works projects and job-creating community development activities. On the income side, Governments and the private sector should support job training and re-training, geographic labour mobility assistance, incentive assistance and support services, (e.g., child-care facilities, housing and transportation).

- **Investing in Education:** There is undeniable evidence that investment in education pays off. So does investment in vocational and apprenticeship training, as well as enterprise-

Job Surplus Predicted in East and South-East Asia



East and South-East Asia's surplus of jobs contrasts with high levels of unemployment in the rest of the world.

Source: Human Development Report 1993, UNDP, p. 37.

based training, which helps develop new skills and allows employees and businesses to adjust rapidly to changing technological requirements.

- **Protecting Vulnerable Groups:** As previously mentioned, particularly vulnerable groups in all societies include youth; women; the disabled, older, migrant, indigenous and tribal workers; and the long-term unemployed. All of these marginalized and disadvantaged groups need protection and affirmative action measures to assist them in finding gainful employment.
- **Quality Job Balance:** "Productive and freely chosen employment constitutes the key link between job creation and poverty alleviation", the Secretary-General's Report states. At the same time, a healthy, well-motivated and educated work force is essential for economic growth.
- **Protecting Workers' Rights:** Workers' rights must be protected in word and deed. Since its founding in 1919, the International Labour Organisation has made significant contributions to this end, from raising awareness and gathering data to formulating landmark international conventions such as those requiring ratifying States to implement national policies governing occupational safety and health and the fitness of the working environment.

The Ultimate Challenge: Growth with Justice

Few would question the assertion that economic growth is a reliable indicator of a society's overall well-being. What is becoming apparent is that economic growth alone is not enough: it must be combined with social justice, equitable sharing and the inclusion of all the diverse elements that constitute any given society.

In developing this new work ethic, the ultimate challenge will be to create economically sustaining and psychologically fulfilling work which, at the same time, values each individual. These are vital to socially sustainable development and human progress.

As the Secretary-General noted after the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee, the Summit itself cannot "solve the problems of poverty, unemployment and social distintegration, but it should be capable of generating the political momentum and clarity of vision to intensify national action and international cooperation through a renewed commitment to better the life of people in all societies."

The Summit's objectives reflect an evolution of premises expressed in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which resulted from the ground breaking 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Social Summit takes the next logical step towards the Declaration's goal of placing "human beings... at the centre of concerns for sustainable development" and by addressing Rio-generated issues, such as "unsustainable patterns of production and consumption."

Creative Coalitions

Dealing effectively with the complicated phenomenon of jobless growth will require mutually reinforcing policies, including:

Growth: promotion of sustainably high growth;

Stability: achievement of macroeconomic stability with high and equitably distributed levels of employment;

Efficiency: policies that encourage efficient labour-market functioning;

Incentives: fairly allocated incentives to support productivity;

Solidarity: enhancing economic policies through human development.

Keeping in mind the implications of economic globalization on the quantity, quality and distribution of jobs, a balance between labour-market flexibility and employment security needs to be created by workers and employers together in a partnership that is beneficial to both the private and the social good.

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World Employment

WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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Attacking Poverty

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UNITED NATIONS

The Situation

The Global Workforce: Out of a 1994 global population totaling some 5.3 billion people, 2.8 billion constitute the current global workforce. Of these, more than 120 million are estimated to be unemployed.

The Widening Income Gap: The annual per capita income in industrialized countries stands at $20,000, as compared to only $500 in the least developed countries of the world.

The top 20 per cent of income earners receive 83 per cent of world income, while the bottom 20 per cent receive only 1.5 per cent.

Employment Facts: An estimated 30 per cent of the labour force—over 800 million people—are not productively employed; that is, they are either hunting vainly for jobs or are underemployed, working at tasks that do not allow them to make ends meet. There are 700 million people in the underemployed category. These people constitute the majority of the 1.1 billion "absolute poor" in the world.

♦ *Industrialized nations:* One out of every 10 persons in the 24 major industrialized countries is unemployed.

♦ *Developing countries:* 60 per cent of the overall population in developing countries live in rural areas, depending primarily on agriculture for their livelihood.

Even though export crop prices have declined substantially in recent years, as the dominant sector of the economy, agriculture accounts for the bulk of the labour force and contributes an average 40 per cent of Gross Domestic Product.

♦ *Subsistence workers:* Some 300 million people, most of them women in developing countries, live hand-to-mouth lives in the so-called informal employment sector, without any sort of social security, insurance, disability or retirement benefits.

♦ *International migration:* Mounting fear of unemployment has led a number of major immigration countries to further restrict the flow of an estimated 30-35 million economically active migrants, 1.3 per cent of the global workforce.

The Debt Crisis: External debt in developing countries nearly doubled over the past decade, reaching $1.4 trillion in 1992, resulting in a development standstill and increasing unemployment.

The Trends

In most regions of the world, unemployment and underemployment are rising rapidly.

♦ *Industrialized countries:* The average unemployment rate is predicted to reach 8.6 per cent in 1994; Western Europe is expected to reach 12 per cent, while Eastern Europe may reach 15 per cent.

♦ *Africa:* Exacerbated by two decades of economic crises, the urban unemployment rate in sub-Saharan Africa stands at about 20 per cent, with the vulnerable informal sector comprising over 60 per cent of the urban labour force; in rural areas, underemployment affects well over half the labour force.

♦ *North Africa and the Middle East:* Unemployment ranges between 10 and 20 per cent, with youth being hardest hit;

♦ *Latin America:* Despite stringent structural adjustment policies, urban unemployment has once again climbed to 7 per cent, the same level as in 1980.

♦ *East and South East Asia:* 50 per cent of the world's 1.1 billion poor live in South Asia, while another 15 per cent live in East Asia

Source: World Summit for Social Development: An Overview, Report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.166/PC/6), 4 January 1994.

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WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen
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6-12 March 1995

Attacking Poverty

Building Solidarity

Creating Jobs

UNITED NATIONS

Attacking Poverty

The reduction and elimination of poverty — a goal implicit in the 1945 Charter of the United Nations — is one of three core issues to be addressed by heads of State or Government when they gather at the World Summit for Social Development, 6-12 March 1995 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

This backgrounder offers an overview of the problem, and examines the range of approaches being considered in advance of the Social Summit. It draws on a variety of sources, especially a report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the first meeting of the Summit Preparatory Committee held 31 January-11 February 1994 in New York.

A Challenge for Development

The half-century since the founding of the United Nations has been a time of exhilaration in the world—and deepening despair for hundreds of millions.

Amid unprecedented material progress, human misery has reached almost unimaginable proportions.

Poverty, in tandem with prosperity, has become globalized.

"Absolute poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy are the lot of one fifth of the world's population", the United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, has said. "There can be no more urgent task for development than to attack both the causes and the symptoms of these ills."

The Basic Symptoms

The key facts about poverty are these:

- Poverty affects individuals and families in every part of the world, although most of the very poorest people—a total of 1.1 billion—live in the developing world, where they represent one third of the population.
- Poverty has increased in recent years, in both relative and absolute terms, in Africa, Latin America and the industrialized countries, while decreasing in Asia.
- Its impact is heaviest on women, followed by the elderly and children.

The World Social Summit

"The struggle against poverty has been part and parcel of the intellectual and political evolution of the notion of social progress in world culture since the end of the eighteenth century", the Secretary-General has noted.

That long and honourable tradition will be advanced at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, which was authorized in December 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly.

The Copenhagen Summit, one in a constellation of United Nations–sponsored conferences on development, will seek international and country-specific commitments to alleviate and ultimately eradicate global poverty.

Governments will examine the issue in the context of two other interrelated core issues: unemployment and social disintegration. Solutions to all three are vital prerequisites to social development.

"The expansion of productive employment is central to the alleviation and reduction of poverty and the enhancement of social integration", the Secretary-General said in his report.

The Nature of the Problem

The 1.1 billion absolute poor live in conditions that Robert S. McNamara, president of the World Bank from 1968 to 1981, described in 1978 as "so limited by malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, squalid surroundings, high infant mortality, and low life expectancy as to be beneath any reasonable definition of human decency".

Among all poor people, 1.5 billion have no sources of clean drinking water or access to sanitation. Most go to bed hungry.

They are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as drought, floods and storms,

More than 70 per cent of the world's poor are women

having little or no margin for survival when their housing, possessions and means of production are destroyed.

Out of the world labour force of 2.8 billion, there are 120 million people who are actively looking for work, but without result.

The vast majority of the absolute poor — 700 million people — are classified as underemployed, working long hours, often at back-breaking jobs that don't come close to covering their most basic needs. A startlingly disproportionate number of these people are women.

The largest number of poor people — about half of the total — eke out existences in the countries of South Asia.

One quarter live in East Asia.

Eighty per cent of the world's poor live in rural areas, with the great majority in Asia and Africa. But the rural poor are mostly landless, or have farms that are too small to yield an adequate income.

Extreme poverty is most concentrated in Africa, particularly in the band of countries south of the Sahara Desert. Africa has about 16 per cent of the world's total—but fully half of all Africans are impoverished.

Poverty Amid Plenty

Poverty is also making significant inroads in the recession-battered rich countries.

In both the United States and the 12 countries of the European Union, nearly 15 per cent of the population live below the poverty line.

Over the last decade, the number of jobs in the industrialized countries has decreased at a rate only half that of GDP growth.

This phenomenon — dubbed "jobless growth" — combined with budget-dictated cuts in welfare and unemployment benefits, has swelled the ranks of the unemployed and weakened social safety nets, especially for the most vulnerable people: women, the young, the old, the disabled.

The effects are dramatized in the numbers and faces of the urban homeless.

"Nearly a quarter of a million New Yorkers — more than 3 per cent of the city's population and more than 8 per cent of its black children — have stayed in shelters over the past five years", according to *Human Development Report 1994*, an annual study commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme. "London has about 400,000 registered homeless people. France has more than 500,000—nearly 10,000 in Paris."

But the situation is worse still in the developing countries, the *Report* says. "In Calcutta, Dhaka and Mexico City, more than 25 per cent of the people constitute what is sometimes called a floating population".

Poverty and Gender

Impoverished women suffer disproportionately from social and cultural problems and from underdevelopment. An increasing number, in both developed and developing countries, are falling into crushing cycles of poverty.

More than 70 per cent of the world's poor are women, followed closely by the elderly.

"They are also the ones who, in the midst of destitution, poverty and disintegrating social structures, sacrifice their comfort and sometimes their lives to hold their families together", the Secretary-General has said.

The so-called feminization of poverty grows out of a stark demographic reality: since women control fewer resources, enjoy a considerably smaller share of the world's wealth and earn lower incomes, they are poorer than men.

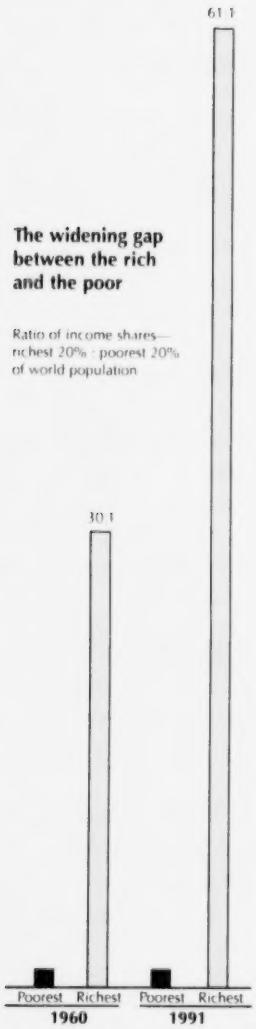
In fact, men generally fare better than women on almost every socio-economic indicator except life expectancy.

Human Development Report 1994 found that, in industrial countries, gender discrimination is generally reflected in employment and wages, with women often getting less than two thirds of the employment opportunities and about half the earnings of men.

"In developing countries", the *Report* notes, "the discrimination is more broadly based. It occurs not only in employment but also in education, nutritional support and health care."

The widening gap between the rich and the poor

Ratio of income shares—richest 20% : poorest 20% of world population



Source: Human Development Report 1994, UNDP, p. 35.

Children also suffer more. They are exploited for their labour at a young age, and hurt nutritionally, educationally and in susceptibility to disease.

"Child labor and the impoverishment of children are not uniquely urban phenomena", the Secretary-General has said. "Some of the worst manifestations are to be found in rural areas, but with increased crowding into shanty towns and urban slums, as well as the growing plight of street children in many large cities, the effects of poverty on children are becoming more well known."

"Children in slum neighbourhoods are often the most exposed to hazards of urban poverty", he added, "and the morbidity and mortality rates are three to four times higher than the average for their age group".

Good News and Bad

The indicators used to assess the severity of poverty vary, and there is disagreement about whether poverty is increasing or decreasing on a global scale, as opposed to just regionally.

But there is consensus among experts that there has been a significant reduction in the proportion of poor people in the world in recent decades.

"The last two and a half decades have seen remarkable progress in the developing world", said Lewis T. Preston, President of the World Bank. "The per capita incomes of the poorest countries have doubled. Life expectancy has risen by 10 years. Infant mortality rates have almost been halved. And with increased immunization rates, child death rates have decreased."

While nearly 70 per cent of humanity were living in abysmal conditions in 1960, only 32 per cent were in that state in 1992, according to *Human Development Report 1994*.

"The share of the world population enjoying fairly satisfactory human development levels (above an HDI of 0.6) increased from 25 per cent in 1960 to 60 per cent in 1992", the *Report* said.

Moreover, both the numbers and the proportion of poor people have decreased in many countries in East and South-East Asia.

The downside of these statistics is that the improvement has slowed, and the absolute number of poor people has actually increased, particularly in Africa, where economic growth since 1980 has fallen considerably behind population growth.

The World Bank has estimated that, if economic growth remains low and recent trends in poverty continue, there could be 200 million more poor people in the developing world by the year 2000.

There has also been a substantial increase in poverty levels in Eastern Europe. But experts say it is not yet clear whether this is a temporary phase *en route* to renewed economic and social development or a longer-term trend.

"Taken as a whole, the available data suggest that the gap between the 20 per cent of the world population at the bottom of the income ladder and the 20 per cent at the top of that ladder is widening", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has noted.

"It increased from 1 to 20 in 1960 to 1 to 60 in 1990. In other words, the top 20 per cent received 83 per cent of the world's income, while the bottom 20 per cent received only 1.5 per cent."

Poverty and Population

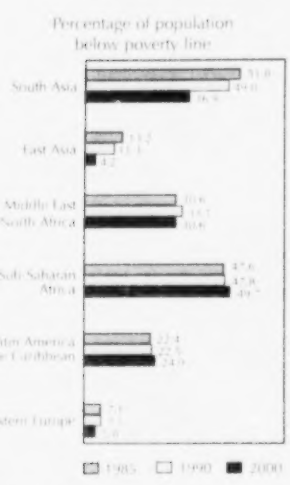
There are many reasons for the international community's failure to stem the tide of world poverty.

Rapid population growth is one.

Worldwide, the human population — 5.6 billion by the end of 1994—is growing by 90 million a year. Although the rate of growth has slowed, plausible estimates are that there will be 6.2 billion people by the year 2000 and between 7.8 and 12.5 billion by the year 2050.

In the developing countries, the annual rate of population growth—currently 1.94 per cent—is "making it extremely difficult to raise living standards and reduce poverty", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has noted.

Poverty in developing countries (1985-2000)



There is growing fear that the combined effects of poverty, population growth, social and economic inequality and wasteful consumption patterns pose a serious threat to the basic resources that future generations will need for their survival and well-being.

The intensity and rapidity of population growth in the cities — where the poor, many fleeing rural privation, congregate in sprawling, disease-ridden slums — has thrown old assumptions about consumption and development into doubt.

Already, an average of 51 per cent of the world's people live in cities — 77 per cent in the industrialized North, and 72 per cent in Latin America.

"Towns and large cities — the sources of economic activity, innovation, freedom and culture — are suffering today from problems of overcrowding, inadequate public services and insecurity", the Secretary-General has observed.

On its face, the situation seems grim, especially looked at in terms of simple logic.

"Of the 90 million new people on earth this year", the philosopher Holmes Rolston 3rd said, "85 million will appear in the countries least able to support them."

"Even if there were an equitable distribution of wealth", Professor Rolston argues, "it would be illogical to assume the human population could continue escalating without people becoming poorer as a result. The pie would continually need to be divided into smaller pieces as the population grew".

Other experts argue that it is too early to make assumptions.

"We do not know what the next generation's consumption preferences will be", caution the authors of *Human Development Report 1994*. "Nor can we anticipate future increases in population that may require more capital to sustain the same opportunities per head. It is also difficult to predict the technological breakthroughs that may reduce the capital that would be required to achieve the same level of well-being."

The Lost Decade

Besides population, another factor in the persistence of extreme poverty has been the failure of many Governments to reform their economic and political systems.

Also, foreign aid donations have stagnated since the mid-80s. And $1.2 trillion worth of foreign debt has accumulated, sapping financial earnings and undermining the creditworthiness of low-income countries. The $950 billion spent on the military in 1990 alone was the biggest single drain on resources, according to a report by the Worldwatch Institute.

Many authorities trace the resurgence of regionalized poverty, particularly in Africa, to the stagnation that began in the world economy during the oil crisis of the 1970s and continued into the 1980s — the so-called "lost decade" of development.

"In the course of that decade, the favorable trends in human development in the preindustrial world have slowed, leveled, and even reversed", said Gerard Piel, an authority on population trends. "The prospects of the most deprived people there have darkened."

Political and Social Perils

The precise reasons for the vast disparities between rich and poor are the source of much debate. These disagreements, the Secretary-General suggests, miss the point.

"While issues relating to the distribution of income and of basic services elicit reactions, views and theories which vary greatly according to time and place", Mr. Boutros-Ghali notes, poverty is nonetheless "universally recognized as morally repugnant, economically destructive and politically dangerous."

The danger is inherent in the perception that to be impoverished is not simply to be without the basic necessities of life. It implies exclusion from the goods, services, rights and activities that constitute the basis of citizenship.

"If poverty persists or increases and there is neglect of the human condition, political and social strains will endanger stability over time",

The eradication of poverty is a priority development objective for the 1990s

— United Nations General Assembly

the Secretary-General has warned. "The reduction of poverty requires development in which access to the benefits of economic progress is as widely available as possible, and not concentrated excessively in certain localities, sectors or groups of the population."

Historians reexamining certain periods have found striking parallels in the past. The situation in eighteenth-century France is a classic example of the explosive power of extreme poverty and population pressure, according to the historian Paul Kennedy:

"Although the French Revolution had specific causes — for example, worsening state finances during the 1780's — many felt that there were deeper reasons for these social upheavals", he notes in his study *Preparing for the Twenty-First Century*.

"One such was obvious to anyone who visited Europe's crowded cities or noted the growing incidence of rural unemployment: it was the sheer press of human beings, all needing food, clothing, shelter, and work in societies not well equipped to meet those demands, at least on such a scale".

Poverty and the Environment

There is wide agreement that the industrialized nations are responsible for most of the world's pollution.

But the poor, struggling for survival on a day-to-day basis, often lack the resources to avoid degrading the environment.

"Most of the rural poor in the world live in areas of low agricultural productivity and have little alternative to unsustainable practices that will make it even more difficult for their children to escape from poverty", Mr. Boutros-Ghali notes.

At the same time, most of the world's poorest countries depend for increasing export earnings on tropical agricultural products that are vulnerable to fluctuating or declining terms of trade. Expansion can occur only at the price of environmental damage.

The connection between poverty and destruction of the natural environment was officially acknowledged more than two decades ago, at the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, a watershed moment in world-wide awareness of environment and development issues.

Twenty years later, the link between poverty and sustainable development became the basis for a sweeping series of affirmations.

The 178 Member States represented at history's largest diplomatic gathering, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, called for an end to poverty, and recommended that all nations move to attack the problem in country-specific ways.

"All States and all people", says the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, "shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world."

In "Combating Poverty", one of 40 chapters in Agenda 21, the UNCED blueprint for development into the twenty-first century, the Governments set out a series of recommendations to "enable the poor to achieve sustainable livelihoods".

The document notes that because poverty is "a complex multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains", "no uniform solution can be found for global application".

Instead, it says, what is needed are "country-specific programmes to tackle poverty and international efforts supporting national efforts, as well as the parallel process of creating a supportive international environment".

The Role of the UN

The 1995 World Social Summit is part of a multifaceted drive against poverty by the United Nations and its agencies. These include the World Bank, United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development

Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, among many other organizations.

The World Bank, which has made the reduction of poverty and the improvement of living standards its overall objective, has charted a two-pronged strategy against poverty. The strategy was first detailed in the Bank's 1990 *World Development Report.*

One element involves expanding employment and income-earning opportunities among the poor, and is thus necessarily concerned with the nature and rate of economic growth.

The second aspect of the Bank's strategy is to enhance the ability of poor people to respond to the opportunities presented. It is thus involved with improving access to such aspects of social infrastructure as health services and education.

The General Assembly has called the eradication of poverty — particularly in the least developed countries, Sub-Saharan Africa and other countries that have areas of concentrated poverty — "one of the priority development objectives for the 1990s".

In its call — a resolution of 31 March 1994 — it invited all countries to begin implementing domestic policies to help create jobs and assure food security, health, education, housing and population programmes for all citizens, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

The chairman of the Preparatory Conference of the World Summit for Social Development, Ambassador Juan Somavia of Chile, has said that he hopes the meeting will result in a commitment from every nation to eliminate poverty.

"A political decision to eliminate — and yes, I mean eliminate — extreme poverty within a time frame distinctly specified by each nation would be a true achievement in which we could take legitimate pride", he said.

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WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen
Denmark
6-12 March 1995

Attacking Poverty

Building Solidarity

Creating Jobs

UNITED NATIONS

Global Poverty

The Situation

Basic numbers: Of the 5.6 billion people who will be on the planet by the end of 1994, more than a billion live in a state of absolute poverty, with income and consumption levels below nationally defined poverty lines.

They are essentially bereft of life's basic necessities, struggling to survive on the equivalent of less than US $370 a year.

Some 550 million go to bed hungry each night. More than 1.5 billion lack access to clean drinking water and sanitation.

Life expectancy is short, a consequence of such factors as disease, hunger, malnutrition and crime. In Sub-Saharan Africa, people rarely survive beyond the age of 50, on average. In Japan, by comparison, the average is 80.

Education is virtually nonexistent. A billion adults are functionally illiterate, while some 500 million children have nowhere to go to school.

Who: The poor are in virtually every country, but the overwhelming majority are in the developing nations.

Women suffer disproportionately; they represent 70 per cent of the poverty-stricken population, followed closely by the elderly.

Infant mortality rates are about 175 per 1,000 live births in Africa and close to 100 in India; in the developed world, East and West, the average is about 15.

What: Poverty has been typically measured by the income or expenditure level that can sustain a bare mimimum standard of living. But it is also a matter of such factors as nutrition, life expectancy, access to clean water and sanitation, illness, literacy and other aspects of human existence.

In terms of income levels, the World Bank has used an upper poverty line of $370 a year per capita as the cutoff; anyone below that is classified as poor. The very poor, by this definition, are those whose annual income equivalent falls below $275.

Where: The greatest concentrations of poor people are in rural areas of Africa and Asia.

Numerically, the largest number of severely impoverished people — about half of the total — live in South Asia, which is home to 30 per cent of the world's population.

But they are most concentrated in Africa, particularly the Sub-Saharan nations. Although Africa has about 16 per cent of all the world's poor, fully half of all Africans are impoverished.

Although urban poverty continues to worsen, the rural poor still represent more than 80 per cent of the total number of poor people in the developing countries. Sixty per cent of the rural population of sub-Saharan Africa live in poverty, along with 31 per cent of the rural population of Asia. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 61 per cent of the rural population is poor, according to national estimates.

But poverty has also begun to swell in the developed countries; in the United States and Western Europe, nearly 15 per cent of the population live below the poverty line.

The Trends

Despite overall improvement in living conditions all over the world, poverty and inequality remain and appear to be worsening.

The World Bank has estimated that, if current trends continue, the number of poor people in the developing world alone could explode by 200 million by the end of the century.

This has highlighted the fact that poverty is a consequence not only of the misfortunes and limited capabilities of individuals but also of the structures and processes that determine the distribution of income. These include such elements as distribution of wages and salaries; the impact of various taxes and other public revenue sources at different income levels; land distribution; access to ownership and control of productive resources; and market and price structures.

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WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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Attacking Poverty

Building Solidarity

Creating Jobs

Towards a Society for All

How to strengthen social integration—ensuring that a society reflects and is responsive to the needs of all its citizens—is one of three core issues to be addressed by national leaders at the World Summit for Social Development, 6-12 March 1995 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

This backgrounder offers an overview of the issue. It draws on the January 1994 Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, the recommendations of an Expert Group Meeting held 27 September-1 October 1993, and other relevant studies.

The sense of deepening social inequalities worldwide, fragmenting societies, and polarizing population and income groups is more than just "perception", according to United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He reports that "the previously attained level of social security, and thus inclusion in society, is increasingly under threat".

The *Human Development Report 1994*, an annual study commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme, cites ten indicators which reflect a "weakening social fabric": homicides, rapes, divorces, births outside marriage, single parent homes, drug crimes, suicides, requests for asylum, numbers of prisoners and the percentage of juveniles in the prison population. These figures are increasing, especially in economically developed countries and countries in transition.

The irony is that evidence of social development and social deterioration often appear juxtaposed within the same societies. For example, the United States, ranking eighth highest on the Human Development Index, is simultaneously the aggregate leader in indicators of a weakening social fabric.

What is social integration?

What is a socially integrated society? The Secretary-General defines it as one that is "able to accommodate different and divergent individual and group aspirations within a flexible framework of shared basic values and common interests."

Seen in the context of sustainable human development, social integration is a synonym for greater justice, equality, material well-being and democratic freedom that implies equal opportunities and rights for all.

Within society, it manifests itself as solidarity, interdependence, respect for cultural diversity, tolerance for non-mainstream life styles and the courage to replace dysfunctional systems (eg, slavery, apartheid) with more equitable ones.

In the words of the Secretary-General, the goal of constructive social integration is a "society for all" in which citizens feel that the state is responsive to their needs; one that promotes "development consistent with justice for the individual, harmony among groups and social cohesion."

It is clear that this goal cannot be achieved without successfully addressing the Summit's other two core issues of poverty and productive employment. In fact, the common thread that links all three issues is their "crucial importance for the development of individuals and societies," according to the Secretary-General.

Because most of the world's abjectly poor people live in the developing world, where they account for a third of the population, poverty is a major threat to social integration in these regions.

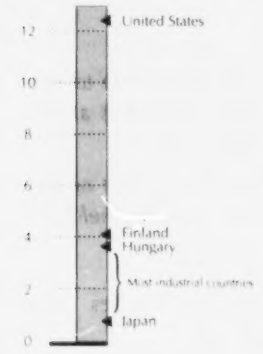
At the same time, poverty is increasing in industrialized countries—for example, nearly 15 per cent of the population of the twelve European Union countries live below national poverty lines.

Social integration is also threatened by the rising tide of unemployment and "jobless growth" which, if it persists, inevitably produces poverty. This downward spiral of social disintegration is characterized by marginalization of large portions of a society's population through

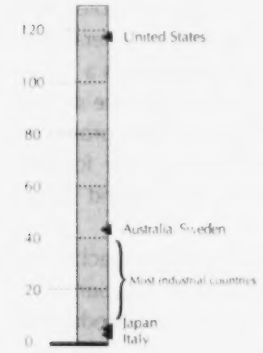
UNITED NATIONS

Profile of human distress in industrial countries

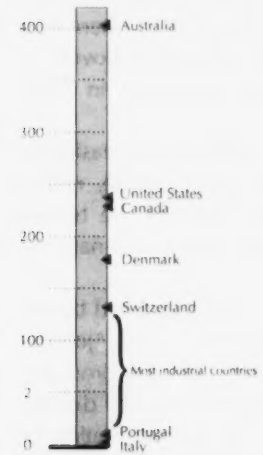
Murder
International homicides by males per 100,000 males



Reported rapes
per 100,000 women aged 15-59



Drug crimes
per 100,000 people



Source: Human Development Report, 1994, UNDP, p. 30.

exclusion and neglect, homelessness, and high crime and mortality rates.

Symptoms of Disintegration

Rapid, far-reaching change is a hallmark of contemporary society. In the realms of economics, technology, culture and social values, change is ironically one of the few "permanent" features of the world. Yet, although change has brought a multitude of improvements, one of its most adverse repercussions has been its tendency to marginalize, discriminate and exclude groups and even entire nations.

Who are the marginalized and excluded? They include:

- illiterate migrants moving from rural poverty to urban slums, their search for a better life often unattainable;
- unemployed teenagers hanging out on street corners, "looking for trouble" because they can't find worthwhile work;
- orphaned children, victims of ethnic conflict, subsisting in the nether world of refugee camps;
- elderly widows, struggling with too little money to make ends meet.

Exclusion

As with poverty, exclusion anywhere poses a threat everywhere, particularly when sheer numbers of these marginalized minorities attain critical mass. And their numbers are increasing.

Consider the elderly, one of the most vulnerable population groups: by the year 2025, the world's elderly population (people aged 60 or more) will number 1.2 billion, 14 per cent of the projected total global population. That means that this portion of the world population will have grown approximately by a factor of six, double the growth rate of the overall population.

Exclusion and discrimination are not only economics-driven. They are often based on racial, ethnic or tribal differences and may also be gender-based. Harvard economist Amartya Sen estimated that some 100,000,000 women are missing from the global population figures, most of them from South and East Asia, where female foetuses are routinely aborted after amniocentesis or ultrasound scanning.

Statistics from 43 developing countries reveal that mortality rates for female children between a few months and four years old exceed those of boys in the same age groups. Even if they survive early childhood, discrimination against girls continues, fueling further societal marginalization.

Take education: of the 100 million children worldwide between the ages of 6-11 who do not attend school, 70 per cent are girls. Some 660 million people—two thirds of the world's illiterates—are women. And, although they are making progress, women as a group are still subject to varying degrees of discrimination in virtually every country of the world.

Ethnic conflict

All too often, institutionalized discrimination results in ethnic or racial violence and armed conflict, as societies disintegrate under the weight of their own prejudice. As the *Human Development Report 1994* revealed, of the 82 conflicts since 1990, 79 were within national borders.

Played out in both political and military arenas, these conflicts characteristically take a high toll of civilian casualties. Fully 90 per cent of war casualties since 1990 have been civilian as opposed to only 10 per cent at the beginning of the twentieth century. Those who survive often become refugees.

As case in point, the prolonged warfare in the former Yugoslavia has generated the largest refugee exodus in Europe since the Second World War. Another example is Tajikistan (in the former Soviet Union) where war has taken the lives of more than 20,000 citizens and made refugees of over half a million people, the equivalent of 10 per cent of the country's total population.

Yet another example is Africa, which accounts for one third of the world's refugee population. Since April 1994, an estimated 3.5 million, or almost half the entire pre-war population of Rwanda, were either killed or forced to flee their homes due to ethnic conflict. Many who survived the slaughter fell victim to cholera and other diseases sweeping the refugee camps.

Migration

Whether because they are seeking a better life or because they are forced to flee from hostile political conditions or natural disasters, more people today are living outside their home villages, countries or regions than ever before. Although many migrants and refugees expect to

remain only temporarily in their host communities, increasingly, they are there to stay.

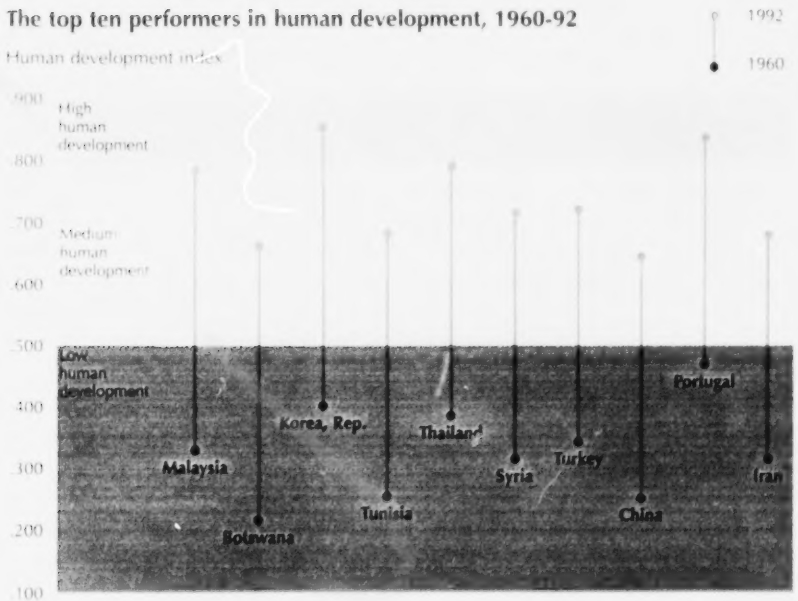
In search of work or higher wages, economic migrants often move to urban areas, leaving their families behind. Although the majority are men, in recent years economic migration rates for women have almost caught up, especially in southern and southeast Asia where more than 70 per cent of women migrants are under 25 years old.

Economic migration may bring privation, even physical danger, as well as a cultural backlash when groups who often share neither a common language nor a common religion or culture are thrown together, straining existing social services as well as human tolerance.

Most problematic is migration that involves political refugees. The current human tidal wave of some 20 million refugees who have fled across borders, along with another 26 million internally displaced persons, is swelled by armed conflicts, political instability, violations of human rights and persecution.

Many societies are becoming increasingly multi-cultural as a result of migration. This fact is potentially positive, with the possibility of greatly enriching the receiving societies, but it may equally lead to greater misunderstanding, confrontation and anxiety.

The top ten performers in human development, 1960-92



These ten countries have made the most progress in human development over the last three decades.

Source: Human Development Report 1994, UNDP, p.9b

Crime

Many societies are threatened by rapid increases in crime, which seem to be outpaced only by skyrocketing fear of victimization felt by ordinary citizens. Often the response to this fear has been to seek to withdraw from contact with the community, behind high walls or barred windows. Increasing fragmentization of the physical environment into "safe" and "risky" areas creates distances among residents which lead to misperceptions, distrust and eventually, social disintegration.

Frustrated at diminishing legal opportunities, crime seems to offer a tempting path to affluence and power. Especially amid the near-anarchy of severe social disintegration, such as that being experienced in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union, crime proliferates.

For a handful of entrepreneurs, versed in the sophisticated niceties of marketing and money laundering, illegality may pay off big—at least in the short run. The total annual turnover of organized transnational crime is judged to be in the vicinity of $1,000 billion.

Global trade in drugs has also become an illegal goldmine, raking in estimated profits of some $500 billion annually, an amount which exceeds the GDP of many of countries. It is estimated that, in the United States alone, $85 billion a year from the sale of cocaine, heroin and cannabis is available for money laundering and black market investment. This illegally acquired wealth only serves to exacerbate the already yawning chasm between the very rich and very poor in the world.

The Vision

How do we transform the vision of a "society for all" into reality? This is the challenge of the Social Summit. Even at this early stage, the Secretary-General's report has identified certain criteria, including:

- an "enabling environment";
- fulfillment of basic human needs (eg, health, shelter);
- literacy and primary education for all;
- economic growth with social justice;
- respect for, and protection of, diversity
- equal opportunities for all;
- accurate, timely information for all so

that citizens can fully participate in their societies;

- means to measure social development over time.

Setting New Priorities

The real goal is not merely to integrate a social dimension into the development process, but to redefine the very concept of development so that it truly becomes socially relevant. That means setting new priorities.

First of all, it will be vital to bring governments closer to the people, humanizing their bureaucracies and making them more responsible and responsive to their citizens.

Within countries, governments have prime responsibility for assuring overall social security by ensuring an environment which encourages sustainable economic growth, increases the number of productive jobs, guarantees social safety nets, and empowers the disadvantaged.

Governments have a very powerful means at their disposal: the power to redistribute economic and taxation burdens which can discourage exorbitant income differentiation and target needy portions of the population through well-defined social programmes. For example, progressive taxation, if not excessive, can be effective in creating socially supportive incentives.

"No man is an island...."

John Donne

Governments also must take "preventive action" against social exclusion. They must pass, and enforce, legislation to ensure equal rights for all and to respect diversity. Where discrimination has previously set the tone, equal opportunities must be created through affirmative action and similar policies.

Government is not the sole actor when it comes to promoting social integration. It must work with the private sector and civil society.

Socially Responsible Businesses

The role of the private sector in promoting social integration is clearly evolving and it is likely to take on added importance in the years to come. Gone are the days when clear distinctions could be made between the role of government and the role of private companies in promoting social and economic well-being. Increasingly, there is a need for partnership between private the public institutions to ensure quality and choice in the goods and services people require.

This is where a growing sense of corporate social responsibility comes in. As experts at a 1993 meeting in The Hague put it, "in order to survive, private enterprises will have to change from a model based on maximizing profit to a model which emphasizes social responsibility and accountability to the community. Through the vehicle of private sector initiatives, the focus of productive employment must shift from profit towards people".

An Engaged Civil Society

Equally important for promoting social integration is the community of non-governmental organizations, religious institutions, professional associations, labour unions, cooperatives, community groups and other social networks which make up civil society. Such organizations often provide the means and the structures for people to express their aspirations, meet their needs, represent their interests and participate in local and national decision-making. They can also provide the forum for various interest groups to reconcile their differences democratically and peacefully, thus avoiding conflict and potential social disintegration.

To be able to function effectively, the organizations of civil society may need the active support of government. By decentralizing responsibilities and authority, by guaranteeing freedom of association and organization, and by ensuring active, two-way communications, governments can promote a lively, active and functioning civil society. This "enabling" action by government will promote social integration.

Vision to Reality

"No one goes through life alone. All of us are created within, and influenced by, networks of social relations which provide us with our identity and establish a framework for our actions," said the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development report on social integration. It stressed that people live and pursue their goals within a structure of institutions, ranging from families and households to schools, street gangs, sweatshops, stores and offices in which they work.

On a more general level, their opportunities in life are affected by the larger economic and political context, ranging from bartering for

"To integrate: to combine parts into a whole; to bring or come into equal participation in... society."

The Concise Oxford Dictionary

food to betting on the stock market, from decisions of tribal councils to those of international tribunals.

As of August 1994, the United Nations numbered 184 Member States, actually made up of several thousand "nations" or "peoples". In this multi-ethnic, multi-cultural patchwork world, a flexible, socially responsive framework which supports civilized cultural change while, at the same time, fostering respect for tradition is crucial to sustainable human development.

Social integration, states the Secretary-General's Report, should be very clearly and firmly based on "a platform of principles built on respect for human dignity, individual freedom and equality of rights and duties."

Empowering the UN

There is a pressing need for the world community to recognize its common heritage. Due to the increasing interdependence between nations, many proposals for social integration and a socially just global system of governance can be implemented only at the international level. Here the United Nations has a unique and vital role to play.

Convened by the United Nations, the Social Summit will produce a political Declaration as well as a Programme of Action aimed at alleviating and finally eliminating extreme poverty, at creating adequate productive employment for an increasing population and at enhancing social integration. The Social Summit will endorse an agenda for social development—but that is only the beginning.

Empowering the United Nations to meet this challenge effectively means paving the way for "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom" as envisaged almost fifty years ago in the United Nations Charter.

Social Integration

WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen
Denmark
6-12 March 1995

Attacking Poverty

Building Solidarity

Creating Jobs

UNITED NATIONS

Signs of Social Progress

♦ Average life expectancy in developing countries has increased from 40 years in 1950 to 63 years in 1990;

♦ Fertility rates are falling in every region except Africa and it is estimated that the annual number of births in the developing world will have peaked by the year 2000;

♦ Despite population growth and high infant mortality rates in a few countries, the absolute number of child deaths worldwide is falling;

♦ From 1960 to 1990, education spending in the developing world rose from 2.2 per cent to 3.4 per cent of GNP; female literacy increased in all regions of the world, actually doubling from 18 per cent to 36 per cent in the least developed countries between 1970 and 1990.

♦ Economically, since the Second World War, average real incomes in developing countries have more than doubled; since 1990, the world economy is gradually reviving from recession, as evidenced by a growth rate increase from 1 per cent in 1993 to a projected 2.2 per cent for 1994 and 3 per cent for 1995.

♦ Since 1987, global military spending has declined at a rate of 3.6 per cent a year, resulting in a cumulative theoretical "peace dividend" of $935 billion between 1987 and 1994.

Symptoms of Social Disintegration

Social Exclusion

♦ It is estimated that fewer than 10 per cent of the world's total population participate fully in the political, economic, social and cultural institutions that shape their lives. The poor, women, the disabled, the elderly, minorities and rural dwellers are most marginalized;

♦ Political power remains centralized, especially in the developing world where, on average, less than 10 per cent of national spending goes to local governments.

♦ In the USA, real benefit spending per old age pensioner declined by 40 per cent between 1987 and 1990 while the unemployment rate for blacks was twice that for whites;

Discrimination

♦ Women comprise 66 per cent of the world's illiterates and 70 per cent of the world's poor; Asia alone has 374 million poor rural women, more than the population of western Europe;

♦ An estimated 100,000 women are missing from the global population, most of them from South and East Asia, where female foetuses are often aborted after amniocentesis or ultrasound scanning;

♦ In the non-US corporate world, women hold only 1 per cent of top management positions; one study predicted that it would take 475 years for women to reach equality with men as senior managers;

♦ Indigenous people, 300 million in over 70 countries, often face severe discrimination and violence: for example, in Canada, they are six times as likely to be murdered as other Canadians; in Venezuela, the 10,000 surviving Yanomami may face extinction, victims of economic and environmental exploitation;

♦ Racial discrimination is reflected in the disparity between blacks and whites in South Africa, which in 1993/94 was four times as great as in the United States based on life expectancy, per capita income and the human development measurement scale.

Violence and Abuse

♦ The United States leads the world in violence with the highest incidence of murders (over 12 per 100,000), reported rapes (150,000 in 1993) and child death by gunshot wounds (7,000 in 1992); another estimated 3 million American children are chronic victims of abuse and neglect;

♦ Children everywhere are vulnerable victims of violence. In Brazil, home to an estimated 200,000 street children, four youngster a

day are murdered; the killing of Brazilian minors has increased by 40 per cent in a single year (1993-1994);

♦ A total estimated 500,000 child prostitutes work the sex tourism centers of Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Philippines;

♦ Violence against women is ubiquitous but often unreported: for example, depending on the source, there are between 5,000 and 9,000 dowry-related deaths per year in India; one-third of all wives in developing countries are allegedly battered while one woman in 2,000 worldwide is reported to have been raped;

Crime

♦ Illegal activities are increasing. In the US alone, 14 million crimes were reported in 1992, costing the country $425 billion; American spending on narcotics is thought to exceed the combined incomes (GDPs) of over 80 developing countries.

♦ Worldwide, many crimes are drug-related. Each year 225 : 100,000 people in Canada and 400 : 100,000 in Australia suffer from drug-related crimes, which also doubled in Denmark and Norway, while increasing more than thirtyfold in Japan, during the second half of the 1980s;

♦ Transnational criminal organizations operating across national borders have an annual turnover estimated at $1,000 billion per year.

Migration

♦ One in every 115 people on earth is a migrant or refugee, having been forced to leave home for economic, political or military reasons;

♦ Over the past three decades, some 35 million people—almost equal to the entire population of Argentina—have migrated from the South to the North; another million move each year;

♦ The number of political refugees and victims of ethnic conflict has grown from 8 million at the end of the 1970s, to a current figure of some 20 million people who have fled across borders and another 26 million internally displaced persons.

Conflict

♦ About 40 per cent of the world's countries have a minimum of five ethnic populations while half of all countries have experienced some form of recent inter-ethnic strife;

♦ Of 82 conflicts since 1990, 79 were within national borders;

♦ During the four months, April-July 1994, 3.5 million people in Rwanda—almost half the total population—were killed or forced to flee their homes due to tribal conflict.

♦ At the beginning of the century 90 per cent of war casualties were military; now 90 per cent of casualties are civilian;

♦ More than 1.5 million children have been killed in wars in the last decade; five million children live in refugee camps today while some 12 million have lost their homes, families or both;

♦ Developed countries spend as much on military power in one year as the poorest 2 billion people earn in total income;

♦ In a world spending over $800 billion a year on military programmes—an amount equal to the income of nearly half the world's people—one billion people lack basic health care; one adult in four is unable to read and write; and one-fifth of the world population goes hungry every day;

Sources: Secretary General's Overview Report on the Social Summit, (A/CONF.166/PC/6); 1993/94 Human Development Reports (UNDP); UNICEF Facts and Figures 1993; UNICEF Progress of Nations 1994; World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 1994; Military and Social Expenditures 1993 (Sivard).

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Population and Social Development

WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen
Denmark
6-12 March 1995

Attacking Poverty

Building Solidarity

Creating Jobs

Although most of the world's people live in developing countries, unbalanced population growth and lagging human development have profound implications for the quality of life everywhere. The issue goes beyond numbers, to the need for a new, people-centred vision of development.

This backgrounder looks at the links between population growth and social development. It draws on a variety of sources, including reports prepared for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

Establishing the Connections

With global danger signs proliferating, the United Nations is pressing a drive to align policies for balanced population growth with goals for social development. The campaign includes special emphasis on the development needs of families and individuals—especially women.

The effort, which comes as the United Nations approaches its 50th anniversary, grows out of the links between rapid and unbalanced population growth and three mutually reinforcing threats to a just and stable world: extreme poverty, unemployment, and social disintegration.

The connections are at the heart of the agendas of three major United Nations gatherings: the International Conference on Population and Development, in Cairo, Egypt, in September 1994; the World Summit for Social Development, in Copenhagen, Denmark, in March 1995; and the Fourth World Conference on Women, in September 1995 in Beijing, China.

The Population Conference is part of a broad United Nations-backed effort to forge agreement on how to achieve a sustainable balance between human numbers and the needs and resources of the planet. The Social Summit is focused on finding ways to alleviate, and ultimately end, absolute poverty, unemployment, and the many causes of social breakdown.

The gatherings are way stations in a campaign to secure the commitment of all countries to a human development agenda that will help fuel the engine of economic development. Stepping up the rate of economic growth in the context of sustainable development, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has said, "is a condition for expanding the resource base and hence for economic, technological and social transformation".

The questions implicit in population and development are fundamental. Can the world feed twice as many people? Can productive employment be found for everyone? Can women everywhere gain access to the same opportunities for a full and healthy life as men? Can sufficient health, housing, and social services be provided for the billions more people expected to crowd into the world's cities?

Fewer Resources, Fewer Chances

The problems of poverty and serious social conflict and gender inequity are especially severe among individuals and societies with the fewest resources — the poor, the unemployed, the weak and the vulnerable. All have significant influence on, and are influenced by, demographic factors.

The human population, now 5.6 billion, is increasing by an average of 236,000 people a day — the equivalent of another Switzerland every 30 days, a new China every 10 years. By the year 2054, according to United Nations projections, there may be as many as 10 billion people on the planet, amid dwindling basic resources, widespread social disorder, and worsening degradation of the Earth's life-support systems.

UNITED NATIONS

Many believe that development and advances in technology will help ease the transition to new circumstances and dwindling resources, as has happened repeatedly since the English theorist Thomas Robert Malthus first predicted widespread famine and apocalypse two centuries ago.

"Explicitly integrating population into economic and development strategies will both speed up the pace of sustainable development and poverty alleviation and contribute to the achievement of population objectives and an improved quality of life of the population", according to the Population Conference's Draft Programme of Action.

The empowerment of women is essential to ensuring humanity's future

Among its principal objectives, the Draft Programme of Action lists the goal of fully integrating population concerns into "all aspects of development planning in order to promote social justice and to eradicate poverty through sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development".

But there is worry that the sheer press of numbers could eventually confound humanity's ability to adapt, sparking a deepening cycle of scarcity, conflict, and social disintegration.

"We meet at a time when, driven by unprecedented growth in human numbers and wasteful consumption, many of the basic resources upon which future generations will depend for their survival are being depleted, when environmental pollution is intensifying and when widespread poverty and social and economic inequality persist", said Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of the Population Conference.

There is growing recognition that the empowerment of women—who not only make up the vast majority of the world's poorest people, but are key actors in the development process — is essential to ensuring humanity's future. Without it, many experts believe, there is no likelihood of eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable economic development, ensuring quality family planning and reproductive health services, and achieving a balance between human numbers and the Earth's resources.

"There is now an international consensus that we should invest in people, especially women, and give them the power to make their own choices about family size", Dr. Sadik said.

Not only will this approach eliminate hundreds of thousands of maternal deaths each year, she argues, "it will slow the rapid population growth that is making it difficult for many developing countries to provide their growing numbers with food, shelter, employment, education and health".

A Multiplicity of Connections

"The population issue is not solely about numbers", the World Commission on Environment and Development told the United Nations in its landmark 1987 report.

"Threats to the sustainable use of resources come as much from inequalities in people's access to resources and from the ways in which they use them as from the sheer numbers of people", said the Commission, headed by Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway. "Thus concern over the 'population problem' also calls forth concern for human progress and human equality."

In fact, the question of population is caught up in a vast sweep of issues, ranging from abortion and unequal access to resources to foreign aid and the status of women. These continue to fuel long-standing disputes between rich and poor nations, and among such groups as economists, environmentalists, feminists, religious institutions, and family-planning authorities.

The disagreements involve some development models, which have been criticized for making a bad situation worse. Foremost among these are "structural adjustment" policies. Typically involving cuts in social spending and in shifting domestic food production to export, they have been blamed for spreading poverty further in already impoverished lands.

"Structural adjustment remains a necessary prescription to remedy serious economic imbalance", the United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali has noted. "But it should also be clear that human needs and priorities must not be neglected, and that adjustment and transformation must have a clear human focus."

Population and Consumption

There is general agreement that extreme poverty and social and gender inequities have significant influence on—and are influenced by—

population factors. This is especially apparent in the developing countries, where most of the planet's 1.3 billion absolute poor—those who have sunk beneath even national poverty lines—live on the fringes of existence.

It is also widely acknowledged that unsustainable patterns of production and consumption in the industrialized nations are the biggest factors in the depletion of natural resources and environmental pollution — even though only one quarter of the world's population live in those countries.

These unsustainable consumption patterns and their environmental consequences reinforce social inequities and widespread poverty—which, in turn, affect, and are affected by, population patterns.

The lowest-income countries are caught up in a phenomenon that has been called the "poverty-population-environment spiral":

The poor, seeking economic and social security, tend to have more children. But their growing numbers impede development, thus perpetuating poverty.

Poverty, in turn, causes environmental stress, a consequence of growing numbers of impoverished people living in vulnerable areas. And environmental stress reinforces poverty and more population growth.

"Demographic growth rates affect the consumption and production patterns of societies", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has noted.

"Beyond a certain point, however, unsustainable and unsupportable population growth can have adverse effects on development efforts globally", he said. "These effects in turn have profound implications for the use of natural resources such as water, food, fuel and air. They affect the ability of Governments to supply the basic services that people require, including education and health care."

Some Basic Trends

Although population growth is gradually slowing, United Nations projections indicate that the absolute number of people worldwide is still growing. From the middle of 1993 to mid-1994, according to United Nations figures, population increased by 86 million people.

Worldwide, the phenomenon is not simply a matter of high birth rates. In fact, fertility has been declining in most countries for the last 40 years. But because of lower mortality rates, and the sheer number of couples of child-bearing age, the absolute number of births continues to increase.

The total population could double by the middle of the next century, and demographers say that 95 per cent of this doubling will occur in the developing world—particularly China, sub-Saharan Africa, India, and Central America. Seventy-nine per cent of the total world population — 4.5 billion people — already live in the less developed areas.

The average annual population growth rate in the developing countries, currently 1.9 per cent, is expected to drop to 1.15 per cent in the first 25 years of the next century. But even then, it will still be "extremely difficult to raise living standards and reduce poverty", according to Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali.

The developed countries, by contrast, are experiencing dramatic population slowdowns—and some, such as France, Italy, and Japan, are seeing their populations actually decline. Overall, the average annual growth rate for the more developed countries has been measured at about 0.4 per cent.

Population and Women

A key element on the agendas of both the Social Summit and the Population Conference is the issue of improving the status of women. Many demographers and other experts believe that womens' limited access to the benefits of development is the single most important cause of rapid population growth — and a primary cause of poverty.

Some 70 per cent of all poor people are women, according to United Nations estimates.

"Gender bias", said Jodi L. Jacobson of the Worldwatch Institute, "prevents hundreds of millions of women from obtaining the education, training, health services, child care, and legal status needed to escape from poverty. It prevents women from transforming their increasingly unstable subsistence economy into one not forced to cannibalize its own declining assets."

Unsustainable consumption hampers the fight against poverty

The fact that women are denied access to productive resources and family income makes them tend to depend heavily on children for economic security and social status. The result is a vicious circle: more people competing for fewer resources, causing more environmental degradation—and more poverty.

"Much remains to be done throughout the world to improve the status of women", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has declared. "It is essential that the role of women be fully understood and fully integrated into the thinking and policies that are to contribute to social progress".

"Women are those who suffer the most from social and cultural problems and from underdevelopment", he added. Yet in all societies, they have "a decisive part to play both in ensuring cultural continuity and in implementing social progress."

A vital first step in stabilizing population growth and alleviating poverty, many believe, is to reduce births voluntarily by offering family-planning resources to the 120 million or more women in developing countries identified by the United Nations as eager to limit family size, but unable to get help.

To do this will require increasing women's productivity and their control over resources.

Population and Employment

Although some economists have argued that population growth can be an important spur to development, this optimism does not apply to most developing countries, where Governments are hard-pressed to provide jobs and services for their growing and largely impoverished populations.

"The unusually high number of young people, a consequence of high fertility rates, requires that productive jobs be created for a continually growing labour force under conditions of already widespread unemployment", the Population Conference's Draft Programme of Action notes.

The rising trend of social disintegration, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali notes in his report on the Social Summit, "particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups", is largely a reflection of unequal access to the benefits of economic progress.

"There is widespread agreement", he says, "that the best way to reduce poverty is to ensure that people have opportunities for productive and remunerative employment sufficient to support themselves and their families."

The Secretary-General also warns that if poverty persists or increases and there is neglect of the human condition, "political and social strains will endanger stability over time".

The result will be further "global sharpening of social inequalities, fragmentation of societies and polarization of population or income groups".

Urbanization and Aging

A major element of concern is the increasingly urban nature of the world's population. In the last 40 years, the urban population of the industrialized North doubled, while increasing five-fold in the developing countries.

Today, 51 per cent of the population live in cities—a figure that is expected to rise, in large part because of migration sparked by such factors as poverty, environmental stress, and social or military conflict.

"The intensity and the rapidity with which populations are being being concentrated in urban areas adds to the feeling of uncertainty about the viability of contemporary models of consumption and development", the United Nations Secretary-General has said. "Towns and cities—the sources of economic activity, innovation, freedom and culture—are suffering today from problems of overcrowding, inadequate public services and insecurity".

Another worry is that while some societies are becoming not only more populous but younger, others are becoming older and less populous.

"The Earth's demographic growth is dramatically lopsided", the historian Paul Kennedy said. For example, 60 per cent of Kenya's population is under the age of 15, while 20 per cent of Sweden's is over 65.

This phenomenon has major implications for the future, not only for jobs, education, health services and housing, but for social divisions.

"There is today a vast demographic-technological faultline appearing across our planet", Professor Kennedy said. "On one side

of this line are the fast-growing, adolescent, under-resourced, under-capitalized, under-educated societies; on the other side are the rich, technologically inventive yet demographically moribund, aging populations."

A New Vision of Development

The United Nations-led effort to align population with development strategies is part of a larger drive to reaffirm the primacy of development—what the Charter of the United Nations calls the promotion of "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

The task, according to Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, will require nothing less than a new vision of development, aimed at ensuring universal human security, and based on equity and sustainability for this and succeeding generations.

James Gustave Speth, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, put it this way: "Sustainable human development is development that not only generates economic growth but distributes its benefits equitably; that regenerates the environment rather than destroying it; that empowers people rather than marginalizing them. It is development that gives priority to the poor, enlarging their choices and opportunities, and providing for their participation in decisions that affect their lives. It is development that is pro-people, pro-nature, pro-jobs and pro-women."

The Population Conference and the Social Summit come at a time of deep collective apprehension, when the spectre of a third world war has been replaced by uncertainty that humanity can survive the environmental and social consequences of rapid population growth, wasteful production and consumption, and militarism.

"The world can never be at peace unless people have security in their daily lives", say the authors of *Human Development Report 1994*, a study commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme. "Future conflicts may often be within nations rather than between them—with their origins buried deep in growing socio-economic deprivation and disparities. The search for security in such a milieu lies in development, not arms."

The situation has a special urgency because of what the Secretary-General has called the crisis of development, which originates in a variety of factors, including a severe case of post cold war "donor fatigue".

The crisis comes amid a proliferation of failed States—Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda, to cite the most recent examples—whose rapid descent into anarchy is taken by some experts as a harbinger of what may ultimately lie ahead for other, more heavily populated parts of the planet unless current political, economic, and demographic trends are reversed.

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Logo for World Summit

WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen
Denmark
6-12 March 1995

Attacking Poverty

Building Solidarity

Creating Jobs

A better life for all the peoples of the world. That is the objective of the United Nations Charter, and the task of leaders at the upcoming World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 6 to 12 March 1995.

The United Nations vision has been distilled into a simple but powerfully evocative logo symbolizing the Social Summit's three goals: attacking poverty, building solidarity, creating jobs.

The new insignia — which depicts three interlinked figures climbing towards the sun — combines an expression of hope with an assertive symbolism: that hand in hand, step by step, nation by nation, people everywhere can realize the Charter's goals of higher standards of living and full employment. And that they can do so on their feet, on a platform of principles built on respect for human dignity, individual freedom and equality of rights and duties.

The logo, designed by United Nations graphic artists, is to be used in all official references to the Social Summit. It can also be used for information purposes relating to the Summit. Permission to use it for fund-raising or commercial purposes must be obtained from the United Nations.

The second of three Summit preparatory sessions will convene at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 22 August to 2 September 1994. The last session will be held in New York from 16 to 27 January 1995.

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THE **WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT** LOGO

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FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT

WORLD SUMMIT
FOR SOCIAL
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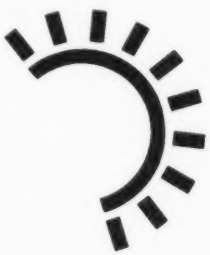

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ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SPANISH TEXT

WORLD SUMMIT
FOR SOCIAL
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SOMMET MONDIAL
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT
SOCIAL

CUMBRE MUNDIAL
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SOCIAL

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UN Unveils a Draft Strategy for World Social Gains

WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen
Denmark
6-12 March 1995

Attacking Poverty

Building Solidarity

Creating Jobs

UNITED NATIONS

Preparations for a major United Nations meeting of world leaders, the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, moved forward today with publication of a proposed global strategy for an assault on the intertwined crises of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration.

Saying the "moral fibre of our societies is being eroded" as surely as the natural environment, the draft strategy declares that social progress must become "the major objective of the international community and of each one of us".

At a time of dizzying global change, the draft strategy says, "it is unacceptable" that "individuals and societies with the fewest resources—the poor, the unemployed, the weak and the vulnerable"—should have to bear "the greatest burden of the economic and social transformation of our world".

The two-part text—a Draft Declaration and Draft Programme of Action—offers a first look at what can be expected from the Summit, to be held from 6 to 12 March in Copenhagen, Denmark. The United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, has called the meeting an indispensable opportunity for the international community to "elevate the social development agenda to an equal level with economic growth".

Release of the Summit draft documents follows the 25 May presentation of "An Agenda for Development", in which Mr. Boutros-Ghali urges the international community to adopt a compelling new vision of development based on human-centred economic growth, protection of the environment, and societal justice and democracy. Without these, he warns, peace will be forever beyond reach.

The inspiration for the Summit grows out of the General Assembly's determination, in the coming 50th anniversary year of the United Nations, to reaffirm the United Nations Charter goal of promoting "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

The Copenhagen Summit, the draft text notes, "is not an isolated event". It will build on the commitments of a whole constellation of other United Nations conferences, including history's largest diplomatic gathering, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, the so-called Earth Summit.

"To reduce social inequalities and to achieve sustainable development is a measure of our solidarity as individuals, members of society and of the international community", the Draft Programme of Action declares.

The Summit draft documents reflect discussions among more than 150 Member States at the first substantive session of the Summit Preparatory Committee, which was held in New York from 31 January to 11 February 1994.

A Moral Obligation

The documents, prepared by the Summit secretariat at the request of the Preparatory Committee, will be taken up by the Committee at its second substantive meeting, from 22 August to 2 September in New York. A third and final preparatory meeting is scheduled in New York from 16 to 27 January 1995.

"We proclaim that social progress is, in effect, possible", the Summit Draft Declaration says. But it warns that solutions must be identified — and collective will mustered — to deal with the three core problems at the heart of the Summit's agenda: extreme poverty; unemployment and underemployment; and the question of how a diversity of nations—and people within nations — can learn to live together in harmony.

With more than a billion desperately impoverished people, and with women bearing a disproportionate share of the suffering, "the struggle against poverty constitutes a moral obligation to ensure that all human beings enjoy at least the basic food, shelter, social services and human relationships that are necessary

for health, dignity and social participation", the Draft Programme of Action declares.

The Draft Declaration calls for the elimination of "all forms of discrimination which mutilate our societies", and for "the elimination of extreme forms of poverty, with precise targets at the national level". It also proclaims "the value of human labour" and "our will to make every possible effort to enable every man and woman who so desires to hold a paying job".

Social progress must become the major objective of the international community and of each one of us.

A basic premise of the draft strategy is that "unequal access to resources, technology and knowledge has created unequal growth and led to increasing socio-economic inequality, both within and among nations".

An Enabling Environment

An essential first step in alleviating this situation, according to the draft text, will be to create an "enabling environment" in which global solutions are feasible.

A favourable economic environment, the Draft Programme of Action suggests, could grow out of efforts to assist developing countries, such as reducing trade barriers and debt, and re-examining the social conseqences of structural readjustment programmes.

A favorable political environment could emerge from United Nations–led efforts to reduce tensions and violence, and to encourage Governments to redirect resources into development that are now used for military purposes.

Effective universal forums will be required as well—including new uses for the General Assembly, whose agenda, according to the Draft Programme of Action, should be restructured "to facilitate the systematic, integrated discussion of the implications of emerging global changes on human well-being and to set priorities and direction for national policies and international action".

While "there are no simple solutions to poverty", the text says, national and international actions must be aimed at "making economic and social policies sensitive to the interests of the poor", and by integrating "specific anti-poverty policies and programmes in the framework of development policy".

A vital component in a global war on poverty, according to the Draft Programme of Action, should be the creation not only of jobs for all, but of productive, worthwhile employment that will allow people to lift themselves and their families out of impoverishment.

Poverty's link with the issue of productive employment is starkly apparent, the text notes, in the fact that the working poor constitute the largest share of the 1.1 billion absolute poor people in the world.

With more than 120 million people without jobs worldwide and an estimated 700 million underemployed, the text says, it is clear that employment "is a key, if not the primary factor, in the achievement of higher living standards".

A Productive Diversity

Yet none of this, the Draft Programme of Action declares, will be possible without creating an environment in which different groups can live together—not by eliminating differences, but "in productive and cooperative diversity" both "within our national borders and in the wider setting of the 'global village'".

Towards this end, an important goal must be to protect "the integrity of indigenous and tribal cultures and ways of life", as well as "ending discrimination in all its forms"; "promoting equal opportunity"; "using education as an integrating force"; and "bringing government closer to the people".

The overall goal of the Summit, the Draft Declaration says, will be to identify ways in which the international community and individuals everywhere can enhance the dignity of each human being, develop the material and spiritual well-being of every community and build solidarity among groups and nations.

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25 May 1994

Secretariat of the
Social Summit

World Summit for Social Development
Preparatory Committee
Second Session, New York
22 August - 2 September 1994

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DRAFT DECLARATION

AND

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

UNITED NATIONS

Note

1. The Draft Declaration and Draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.166/PC/L.13) are to be considered by the Preparatory Committee in August 1994.

2. At the request of the Committee, these documents are to be issued at the beginning of June 1994 in order to generate as large a debate as possible within the international community before the August session.

3. Following the meeting of the Preparatory Committee in August, the Draft Declaration and the Draft Programme of Action will be reformulated for submission to the same Committee in January 1995. Then, texts will be proposed to Heads of State and Government in Copenhagen in March 1995.

DRAFT DECLARATION

1. The Draft Declaration defines social progress as respect for the dignity of each human being, material and spiritual development of each community, and solidarity among groups and nations.

2. It states that social progress should be a priority for the international community, is possible to achieve, and requires the concerted efforts of all concerned: governments, the civil society, international and regional organizations.

3. Current social problems are outlined in the document - poverty, lack of remunerative employment, violence, social disintegration - which suggest that the moral fiber of contemporary societies is weakening.

4. Major trends - positive, negative, and mostly ambivalent - are also outlined: access to freedom and autonomy of large number of people, end of apartheid, progress in the equality of women, better relation of mankind with the environment, "globalisation" of communications, exchanges, technological advances and economic decisions, risk of increased uniformity.

5. Social progress requires placing the human person at the centre of all thinking and all decisions. It also requires a greater solidarity between individuals, groups and nations. Solidarity is a moral imperative and a source of mutual enrichment.

6. Each nation is invited to set a target, with a precise time horizon, for the elimination of extreme poverty. It is also stated that inequalities of all types should be reduced.

7. The right to work and, in economic terms, full employment, are presented as legitimate objectives. Employment should be at the centre of all economic and social policies and should be a major aspect of the strategies of private enterprises. Entrepreneurs have responsibilities for the common good.

8. Social integration, or the capacity of people to live together harmoniously, is presented as the major question of our time. There is a continuum between the various levels of integration, from the family to the international community.

9. Responsibility, freedom, and solidarity, are mentioned as the three core values of a renaissance seen as necessary on the eve of the twenty-first century.

10. The last point of the Draft Declaration is to stress that the implementation of the proposed Programme of Action, and, more generally, social progress, requires the active involvement of all actors.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The Draft Programme of Action has five parts:

I. An enabling environment
II. Reduction and elimination of widespread poverty
III. Productive employment and the reduction of unemployment
IV. Social integration
V. Means of implementation and follow-up

I. AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

1. There is an increasing interdependence resulting from the rapid expansion of global markets, improvements in technologies and communications, and global scope of many problems including threats to the environment, organized crime, drug trafficking, as well as greater movements of peoples.

2. The capacity of governments to make independent policy decisions has been reduced; multilateral, cooperative action is required.

3. To create a favourable economic environment, the following measures are recommended:

- With regard to trade, the products of many developing countries continue to face trade barriers; the work programme of the World Trade Organization should include specific processes to reduce such barriers, especially for the least developed countries;
- As debt servicing represents resources which could be better spent on social programmes, debt reduction remains a priority; action should be taken on the specific proposals already tabled and on new initiatives to reduce the debt for African and least developed countries;
- Structural adjustment programmes ought to be tailored to the conditions of individual countries, ought to include a full examination of alternative measures to achieve macroeconomic stability, and ought to emphasize a fair sharing of the burden of adjustment among the various social groups;
- Official Development Assistance remains important; the target of 0.7 percent of GNP of donor countries for ODA should be respected; the rules and procedures governing ODA should be made more amenable to social programmes;
- Private capital should also be increasingly geared towards socially desirable investments and activities.

4. To create a favourable political environment,

- Greater attention should be given to the role of the state as the guardian of the common interest;
- A greater reliance on market mechanisms is a positive development; accountability and responsibility of all actors on the market scene should be defined at the national and international levels;
- Shared common values, acceptance of fundamental human rights - including through ratification of existing conventions - should constitute the base for international cooperation;
- Referring to the Agenda for Peace and the role of the United Nations in peacekeeping and peacemaking, the Draft Programme calls upon governments to consider ways to reduce tensions and violence, and to release resources currently utilized for military purposes.

II. REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION OF WIDESPREAD POVERTY

1. A global approach to the reduction and elimination of poverty is advocated. This approach would entail:

- The shaping of macroeconomic and social policies around the objective of reduction of poverty (in many cases, reduction of unemployment or under employment will be the same as reduction of poverty);
- Integration of specific anti-poverty policies in development strategies;
- The mobilization of all actors in the development process for the elimination of poverty;
- Access of the poor to opportunities and productive assets.

2. The access to productive opportunities is presented as a key element of anti-poverty policies.

- The rural poor needs access to credit, land, water, and market information;
- The informal sector ought to be supported through appropriate regulations and credit policies;
- Forceful policies are required to break the vicious circle which characterises the situation of poor women who are both fully occupied and enable to get access to productive resources.

3. Access to basic public services is also a condition for the reduction of poverty; education and health services remain particularly critical.

4. Food insecurity and other forms of vulnerability call for immediate action by local institutions, governments and international agencies.

5. Those who cannot support themselves, because of disability, old age, unemployment, or other causes, have a right for assistance and protection; one of the roles of governments is to provide such protection.

III. PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND THE REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

1. To place employment at the centre of development strategies means in particular:
   - Reformulating national and international economic policies;
   - Broadening the conception of work, as recognized by society, and creating opportunities for participation in work life;
   - Revisiting the traditional division of the life cycle into three distinct periods of education, work and retirement;
   - Considering that more jobs, and jobs of a better quality, are essential to the functioning of societies.

2. There is a need to improve the employment content of current patterns of growth. In particular, the effect of unemployment, of technological changes should be anticipated and, to the extent possible, planned.

3. Small enterprises and cooperative business enterprises should and can generate more employment, provided unnecessary legal and regulatory obstacles are removed.

4. Sectoral priorities should be adjusted to national circumstances; in some cases, more employment can be created in the agricultural sector.

5. It is possible to promote employment through the expansion of socially useful work and through work sharing arrangements.

6. The specific needs of young people, women workers, long term unemployed, disabled workers, indigenous peoples and migrant workers, ought to be recognised; governments should ratify the existing instruments pertaining to migrant workers.

7. The expansion of basic education, and the reorientation of vocational training and apprenticeship programmes, are requirements for more and better employment opportunities.

IV. SOCIAL INTEGRATION

1. The objective of social integration is not to eliminate differences but to enable different groups to live together in productive and cooperative harmony.

2. Social integration must be founded on internationally accepted human values and norms.

3. Social integration cannot be achieved through coercive means; it requires the free and active participation of individuals.

4. Discrimination in all its forms must be eliminated to achieve social integration based on equality and a respect for human dignity.

5. Education and employment are key factors for social integration.

6. Access for all to basic education is vital to the fostering of shared values in society; enabling girls to complete their education is of fundamental importance; special attention needs to the given to the provision of school facilities for children in a disadvantaged situation.

7. Policies for the disadvantaged groups should be designed so as to secure and retain public support on a scale commensurate with needs.

8. Policies to protect migrants and to promote decent conditions for them will enhance their contribution to the host society; migrants once admitted have the right to the full protection of the laws of the host society.

9. Government services have to be brought closer to the people; one approach is devolution or decentralization.

10. Space must be provided for the free interplay of the various actors of civil society.

V. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

1. National governments have a key role in implementing and monitoring the recommendations of the Summit, taking fully into account the involvement of the civil society and the participation of all citizens in the development process.

2. Policies for social development and social progress - including with regard to the three core issues of the Summit - are both sectoral and cross-sectoral, and have strong economic components.

3. Governments are invited to elaborate "national strategies for social progress". These will reflect national priorities and targets within the objectives and principles adopted by the Summit; governments are also invited to review their institutional arrangements so as to ensure "equal treatment" to ministries and administrations responsible for social programmes.

4. Solidarity requires increased transfers of resources from the affluent to the poor, both within and among nations.

5. International cooperation for social development should be expanded, for governments as well as other institutions, including trade unions, cooperatives, professional and trade associations, and academic and research institutions. The exchange of experiences offers an extremely useful domain for such cooperation.

6. A Youth Voluntary Service to the community at the world level should be considered to instill in young people a sense of service to the community, to give them the opportunity to live with people from different cultures, and to create a sense of solidarity at the world level.

7. The role of the United Nations and of the United Nations system to promote cooperation for social progress should be reviewed. There are a number of requirements to take into account:

- While social issues are becoming more and more important, the role of the United Nations is less significant than it was a few decades ago;
- A greater visibility needs to be given to social development and its problems;
- The Commission for Social Development needs to be "revigorated"; the added value of the Commission, as well as that of ECOSOC, to the General Assembly mandates and functions on social development, is minimal;
- There is still a need for an integrated approach to social, economic, cultural, and political issues, although the experience achieved suggests that the "integration" has been detrimental to both the visibility of social issues and the quality of social programmes;
- The specialized agencies - notably ILO, UNESCO, WHO and FAO - as well as the United Nations programmes - notably UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA - should continue to contribute to cooperation for social development within their mandates; the same applies to the World Bank and the IMF. The core of the problem, with regard to enhancing international cooperation for social progress, would appear to be within the United Nations (see for instance the absence of an overall report on the "state of the world" from an economic, social, cultural, environmental and political perspective);
- The role of the General Assembly for policy discussion on development matters - including social - should be enhanced;
- A partial solution would be to entrust the United Nations with the implementation of specific programmes stemming from the Social Summit (on social integration, on the reduction of poverty, on the economic and social facets of the employment problem, etc.).

8. Social development requires the mobilization of all available human and physical resources; poverty is not only a scandal, but also a waste; the same applies to excessive inequalities. Social development also requires the development and proper functioning of a large number of institutions.

9. Financing is an added requirement:
   - At the national level, a review of existing priorities in the allocation of resources will be encouraged;
   - It should be noted that the 20/20 proposal (20 percent of government expenditure in developing countries for social sectors and 20 percent of development aid to the same social sectors) relates to the consent of "human development". The reduction of poverty and the creation of employment opportunities, as well as some facets of social integration, pertains to development as a whole;
   - New financing mechanism should be developed to address global problems such as HIV/AIDS, drug trafficking, organized crime, and food security.

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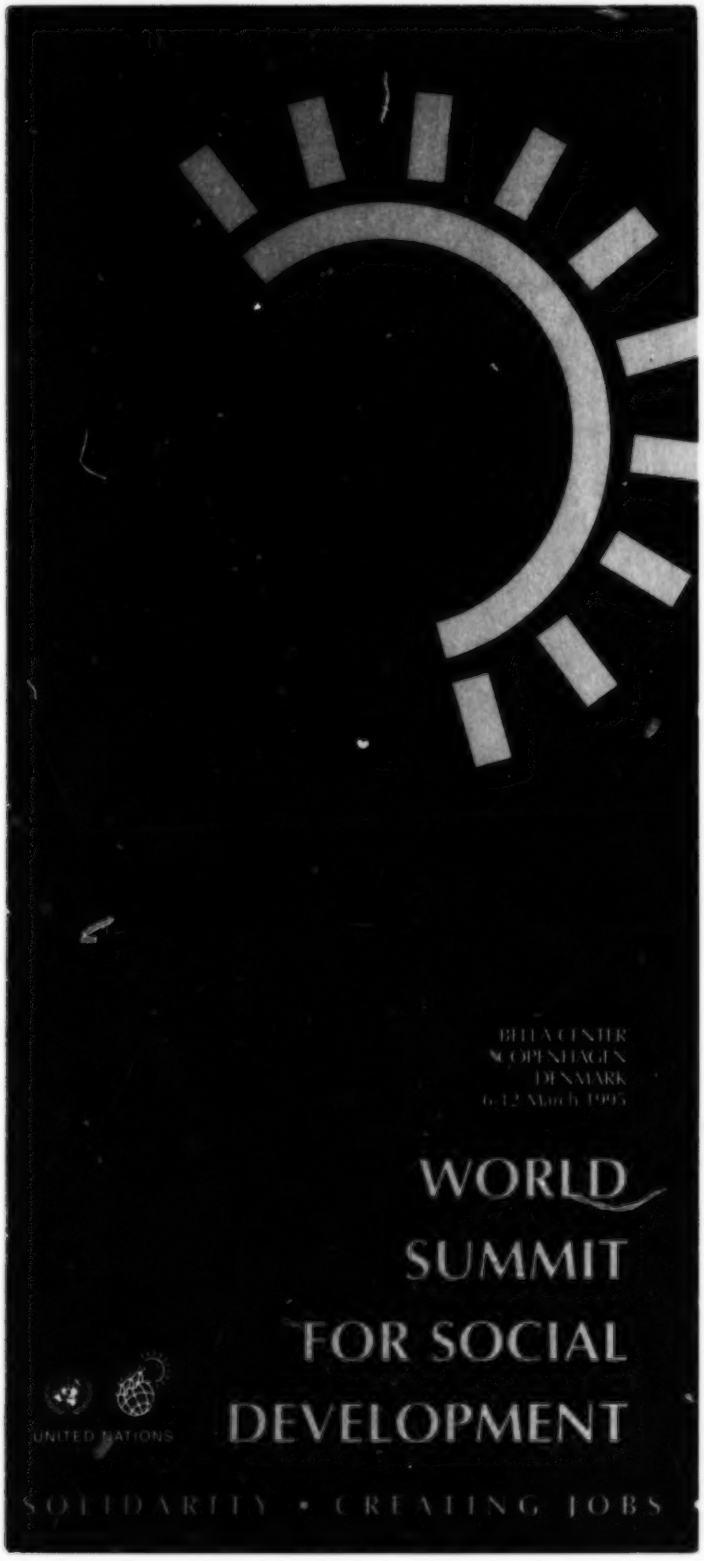
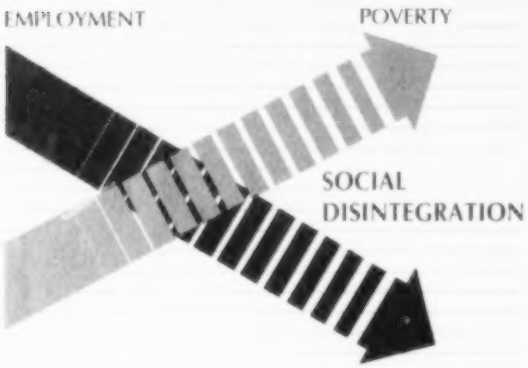

BELLA CENTER
COPENHAGEN
DENMARK
6-12 March 1995
WORLD
SUMMIT
FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
UNITED NATIONS
SOLIDARITY • CREATING JOBS

WHY A SOCIAL SUMMIT?

Promising unprecedented social and economic progress, the end of the cold war has, in fact, given way to a "cold peace", reflected in widespread political fragmentation and social destabilization. Instead of the long-awaited social harmony and affluence, there is increasing poverty and unemployment and a growing sense of insecurity.



What has happened? In the words of United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, "the world is suffering from a social and moral crisis which, in many societies, is of immense proportions". The facts speak for themselves:

Poverty is widespread

- Worldwide, one out of every five people –more than one billion in all–live below the poverty line, and an estimated 13 million to 18 million die annually of poverty-related causes;
- The ranks of those suffering extreme poverty will quadruple within one lifetime if current economic and demographic trends continue;
- Entire nations are afflicted: developing country debt is staggering. At $1.4 trillion, it is nearly double that of a decade ago. Servicing this debt means a net cash outflow from South to North and slashed social budgets which mean that the poorest in society bear the brunt of the burden.

Productive employment is decreasing

- One out of every 10 people of working age cannot find work paying a decent wage;
- Twenty per cent of the world's total wage earners receive only 2 per cent of the world's income;
- Worldwide, about 40 per cent of rural women work without wages on their families' farms. Even when paid, rural women earn far less than men for the same work.

Societies are disintegrating

Conflict:

- Conflict, a symptom of disintegration, has claimed more than 20 million lives since 1945. Over the last decade, conflicts within countries have increased: of the 82 armed conflicts between 1989 and 1992, 79 were domestic, many along ethnic lines; 90 per cent of casualties were civilian.

Migration:

- Conflict also produces refugees and forced migration. In 1993 alone, a total of 6.8 million–equal to the entire population of Switzerland–fled three countries: Afghanistan, the former Yugoslavia and Mozambique.
- Migration itself has become a business. The International Organization for Migration reports that smuggling of migrants is often as lucrative as trafficking in drugs.

Crime:

- Reported crime has grown at a world-wide average of 5 per cent each year since the 1980s; in the USA alone, there are 35 million crimes committed annually.

• Escalation of crime has been particularly swift in developing countries and countries in transition; for example, the Russian Interior Ministry reported in 1994 that the country was beset by more than 5,600 gangs, almost 10 times more than in 1990;

• Illegal drug trafficking rakes in profits of some $500 billion a year–a sum equal to the combined gross national products of two thirds of the UN Member States put together.

• Criminal justice systems struggle to cope with increasingly complex and sophisticated types of crime, such as stock price manipulation, insider trading and credit card frauds.

Domestic violence:

• Violence in the home is both a symptom and a result of the breakdown of family values. Children are tragic victims. So are women, who are at more risk of being killed by their male partners than by any other kind of assault.

Corruption:

• Public corruption is becoming commonplace. In some countries financial frauds are estimated to cost the equivalent of 10 per cent of the country's annual gross domestic product.

These are symptoms of a sick world. There is a need for a new ideal of social progress based on responsibility, freedom and solidarity. Without "intensive care" in the form of a compelling new vision of human-centred economic growth, environmental protection, societal justice and democracy, peace may remain forever beyond our reach.

CHANGING COURSE

"It is unacceptable that individuals and societies with the fewest resources–the poor, the unemployed, the weak and the vulnerable"–should have to bear "the greatest burden of the economic and social transformation of our world."

–Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

Changing course is not so simple...

The problems are planetary. They must be addressed in a global context. This international approach requires foresight, collaboration and consensus in order to formulate a truly global strategy to combat the intertwined crises of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration in a way that will put people, not policies, at the centre of social development.

...but it can–and must–be done

"The globalization of economies and culture", characterized by increasing interdependence in everything from markets to population movements to decision-making modalities, "should benefit all people", said the Secretary-General's overview report on the Social Summit. It is the ultimate responsibility of Governments to ensure that the major problems of this decade–poverty, unemployment and social disintegration–are addressed through principles based on social justice and democracy and through actions built on respect for human dignity, individual freedom and equality of rights and responsibilities.

Harnessing the peace dividend

The decrease in military spending since the end of the cold war freed a potential peace dividend of some $935 billion between 1987 and 1994. This could have been used to:

• finance the World Bank's estimates for a $60 billion per year essential package of basic public health services and clinical care for the entire population of developing countries;

• prevent over 10 million health-related deaths per year; and

• curtail 30 per cent of disease in the developing world.

The UN's Role: "...in the forefront of social progress"

The United Nations responded to socially deteriorating conditions worldwide by calling for a World Summit for Social Development to address three issues: poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. This key event is one of a sequence of eight UN-sponsored conferences, part of a decade devoted to development. Thus, just as the UN played a vital role in raising awareness on sustainable development through the "Earth Summit" (UN Conference on Environment and Development), it is now the global proponent for social progress.

Putting People First

Seen in this context, the World Summit for Social Development is the centrepiece of the UN's commitment to put social issues at the centre of development.

THE ROAD TO COPENHAGEN

"Successful societies are those which focus on people..."

–Report of the First Preparatory Committee for the Social Summit

1992: General Assembly resolution 47/92 calls for the convening of a World Summit for Social Development

1993: UN Conference for non-governmental organizations focuses on "Social Development: A New Definition for Security"

Forty-eighth session of the General Assembly discusses reports on Summit preparations from the Preparatory Committee, regional commissions and the July 1993 High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council

1994: **31 January - 11 February, New York**
First session of the Summit Preparatory Committee considers reports from the Secretary-General, expert group meetings and UN specialized agencies and programmes

22 August - 2 September, New York
Second session of the Summit Preparatory Committee considers the Draft Declaration and Draft Programme of Action and reports from an expert group meeting on poverty and the Secretary-General's Special Advisory Group

Forty-ninth session of the General Assembly considers reports from the Preparatory Committee meetings

1995: **16-27 January, New York**
Third session of the Summit Preparatory Committee

6-12 March, Copenhagen, Denmark
WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
and NGO Forum '95

The United Nations' role is to be in the forefront of social progress... The Social Summit will be both a test and an indication of the commitment of international society to help the most impoverished. This is a rendezvous that we must not miss.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

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ATTACKING POVERTY • BUILDING

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